

Five Ways to Stop Child Abuse in a Public Place

Compiled by the McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Site, a Keeping Kids Safe partner

1. Start a conversation with the adult to direct attention away from the child.

For example: “She seems to be trying your patience.” “My child gets upset like that, too.” “He has beautiful (eyes)” – to get the parent in a positive mood. “Is there anything I can do to help?”

2. Divert the child’s attention (if misbehaving) by talking to the child.
3. Look for an opportunity to praise the parent or child.
4. If the child is in danger, offer assistance.
5. Avoid negative remarks or looks, which are likely to increase the parent’s anger and could make matters worse.