

# IF YOU SEE A **CHILD BEING MISTREATED** IN A PUBLIC PLACE

## Here are some things you can do:

Try to engage in a conversation with the adult to redirect their attention away from the child.

If you know the parent, offer to watch the child for a few minutes while the parent takes a break. A few moments away from crowds and distractions can make a big difference.

Talk to the child to divert their attention away from the situation.

Praise the child and/or parent at the first opportunity.

Alert a person in a position of authority if you are concerned about the physical safety of the child. This can be a store manager or a security guard.

If you feel the child is in immediate danger, call the police.

**To report suspected child abuse or neglect,  
call the Child Protective Services Hotline at  
703-324-7400 • TTY 703-222-9452**



**Keeping Kids Safe**

Part of the Blue Ribbon campaign to prevent child abuse and neglect in Fairfax County.

**Fairfax County Department of Family Services**  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/dfs](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/dfs)



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request.

Information is current as of 1/05

