

playbook

human-
made
biome

Urban survival guide

018 Forewarned is forearmed!

This playbook will help you teach children about safety and security in a town or city and also at home. If you have any stories from your own childhood that provide good examples or advice, add them to the suggested activities to make the experience more personal.

This kit is a little different from the playoddiy kits you may have met before. Of course, it still offers inspiration and guidance on getting the best use out of the contents. But it has a specific focus on some key topics that are critical to every child living in a modern town or city.

age

6-14

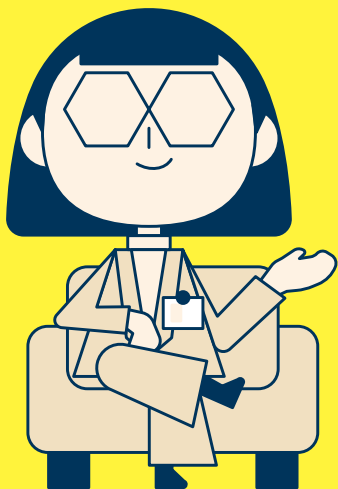


Scan the QR code on the back cover to access the digital version of this playbook.



Warnings

Every playoddity kit is designed as a children's experience that is guided by an adult. All the described activities require adult supervision. Safety instructions for each item in the kit can be found on the item's individual packaging.




WARNING!
Choking hazard:
Small parts
Not for children under 3 years

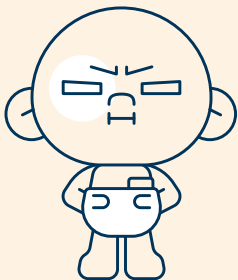


Adult supervision required





Hi, this is The Voice speaking. I'd like to remind you that the most important part of the playoddity experience is the child or children. Without them, you'll just be an adult playing games to avoid responsibilities. So put your phone away, and follow the instructions in this playbook for having a great time! The activities also work without the playbook, if you have your own ideas, but we suggest you have a look at ours first.



Without playbook



With playbook

Unboxing

Living in a town or a city is great, but it can also be challenging at times. Fortunately, there are some strategies for staying safe in any situation. The items from this kit will help you give your kids the necessary knowledge and skills. Show everyone how you're becoming city-proof — share your videos and photos with #playoddity.



Each item in the kit has a colored sticker:

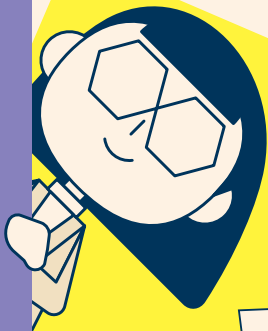
- Green sticker — item can be used by children and adults
- Red sticker — item should be used by adults only

If any items on the list are missing, or you have problems with any of the products, please get in touch.

Contents of this kit

- **01. Multifunction outdoor tool**
Like a Swiss Army knife — but it's not a knife or Swiss.
- **02. Phone number keyring**
Now your phone number is forget-proof.
- **03. Book, "Ultimate Survival Guide for Kids"**
Worth reading from cover to cover.
- **04. Backpack**
To carry your survival gear.
- **05. Powerbank**
Extra energy, just in (a very pretty) case.
- **06. Hand warmers**
Hold them to fight the cold.
- **07. Umbrella**
We've got it covered — rain or shine.
- **08. Toy street signs**
If you've been waiting for a sign, here's a whole bunch.
- **09. Paper roll**
For maps, schemes, routes, and plans.
- **10. Chalk**
Leave your mark.
- **11. Hand bell**
A signal that's hard to miss.
- **12. Fake mustaches**
The "stranger danger" make-up.
- **13. Disguise glasses**
There's more than one stranger in this kit.
- **14. Firefighter's helmet**
"Semper paratus!" as the ancient Roman firefighters used to say.
- **15. Pocket mirror**
For primping and preening.
- **16. Toothbrush**
In case you have to sleep away from home.
- **17. Toy fire extinguisher**
Role-play is key to developing skills.
- **18. Fake candy**
"Hey, do you want some candy?" "No, thanks — I have some already!"
- **19. Anti-stress toy**
Relief for stressful situations in the city.
- **20. Band-Aids**
They fix a lot of things — but not everything.
- **21. Key chain charm**
It holds the key to safe adventures in the city.

Notes and ideas

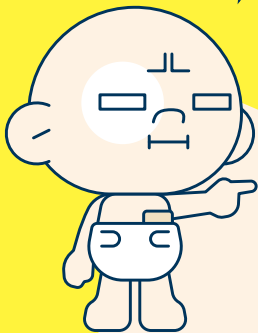


Safety is important, but kids might find it boring. Let's be honest — it IS boring. The following activities will help you turn a serious subject into a **game** so that the kids can engage and **learn**.

Kids like to be **in control**. Actually, everyone does. And knowing what to do if there's an emergency **reduces** fear and **increases** the chances of a good outcome. Your children rely on you, but you can't physically be there for them all the time.

Critical information

Getting lost in a city is a terrifying experience for both children and parents. It's not at all like "Home Alone 2." That's why every child should know **by heart** the full name, address, and phone number of their parents, guardians, or caregivers.



Safe help

It's good to teach your kids not to talk to strangers, but children who get lost feel the need for **action**. That's why they start running around searching for you. Instead, teach them to ask **selected people** — a woman with a child, a security guard, a store worker with a name tag — for help.

Got lost? Get found!

Running around is never a good idea in a public place, but it's an even worse idea when you're lost. Explain to children that if they get lost, they should **stay** where they are and **wait** until they're found. Kids who move away to look for parents or other family members are **much** harder to find.

Traveling around the city

When children can travel around the city on their own, **family life** becomes much smoother. But this isn't an easy skill for kids to pick up. Start with learning your **regular routes** on the map and walking them together. Take notice of all the **landmarks** and memorable places on the way. This will help build the route in the children's **memory**. After a couple of times doing it together, let the children **lead the way** on the same route while you just follow. And finally, when you feel confident enough, let the children travel the route without you.

Safe travel rules

These apply to everyone — but while you might have heard this **advice**, your kids probably haven't. First of all, while traveling you should always be **aware** of your surroundings. Don't put in both earpieces, and don't focus on your smartphone. Look around, observe, and **anticipate** your next steps on the route. Second, **trust** your intuition. If a situation or a person seems unsafe or not right, **step away** — or ask for help. Third, have a **plan B** prepared in case there's an emergency. If something goes wrong, **who** you gonna call? Where you gonna go?

OK, safety in **the city** is important. But what about safety in **the home**? Do your kids know what to do if there's **a fire**? Don't leave it to chance. Take matters into your own hands.

Fire is not a toy

This is the simplest and still the **most important lesson** one can learn as a child. Kids should never play with matches, lighters, candles, or anything else that has **a flame**. Over the years, this advice has been handed out in every possible format — from serious announcements to funny cartoons — but the **core message** is the same. Don't play with fire. If older kids are allowed to use matches, teach them to make sure the match has been properly extinguished. Show them how to **safely put out** a match by holding it under running water from the tap. Kids will quickly pick up this new habit. And finally, never leave burning candles or incense **unattended**.



Have an escape plan

Draw a plan of your home, and work out the escape route. Then run several practice evacuations. Set an alarm clock — when it rings, the kids have to crouch down and leave the dangerous area by the designated route that you planned earlier. Hiding from fire can be fatal. It's always better to run away than to hide in a wardrobe or under the bed.

Although elevators have pleasant muzak, they're a terrible place to be during a fire. Take the kids to find the nearest fire escape, and explain to them that during an emergency, you first leave the dangerous area, and only then call 911.



Stop, drop, roll

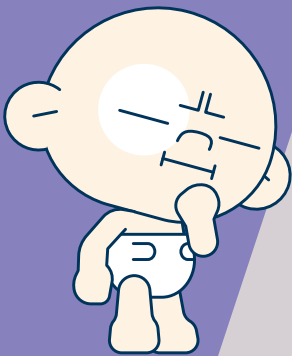
This rule is important, even though most people **don't imagine** that they'll ever catch fire. Indeed, most of them won't, but those who do will need to know this rule. During a fire, a person should stay low — where there's less smoke — and move toward the exit. If their **clothing catches fire**, it's important not to run but to **drop** to the ground and **roll** to put out the fire. Covering your face with your hands is also **a good idea**.

And after “drop and roll,” it's time to “cool and call.” The burnt area needs to be cooled down, and it's vital to call for **adult help**.

Bubbles

Crawling is a good way to keep low when you need to **get out of** a room filled with **smoke**. Use bubbles for a game in which the kids have to **crawl on the floor to the exit and try not to pop the bubbles** that you're blowing over their heads.

Sometimes, however, we can't simply leave the building — because **the outside** is dangerous. Do you know what kinds of **natural disasters** could happen in your area?



Gotta know the enemy

It's very important to know about natural disasters that could affect your region.

And of course, you and your kids need to know what to do if you find yourselves in such a situation. The book included in this kit might give you some answers, and it's really helpful to role-play some emergency situations with the kids to make sure they know what action to take.

Where's the EXIT?

Knowing where a building's exits are can save precious time during an emergency. Walk around the school or kindergarten with your kids, as well as the local stores and public buildings, to see where the EXIT signs are. The one who finds the most signs wins an ice cream! And later, you can design your own EXIT signs and put them up around your home.

Road safety

Road signs are important because they make the environment more predictable. To learn the meaning of the signs, play a simple game. Use the paper roll to draw a map of the surrounding neighborhood, and then add the road signs from the kit. Create a city, and learn what the road signs tell us.

Walking tall

The way a person looks, or even the way they walk on the street, may **increase the risk** of them becoming a victim of a **crime**. A mugger is more likely to attack a person who's not aware of their **surroundings**, who's staring at their phone, or who doesn't appear confident. You could choose to walk softly and carry a big stick, but most of the time it's enough to simply **be aware** of what's happening around you, and pay attention to what's ahead.

Code phrase

Create a code phrase that can be used if you need someone else to **interact** with your kids — for example, when picking them up after school. The children should ask every **stranger** who tries to talk to them for a code phrase, and if the person fails to answer **correctly**, the kids know this person might not be who they seem. Change the code phrase from time to time, and **practice** using it with the help of trusted people.

Play “What if”

Ask your children questions about what they would do if they **lost you** in a public place, or if a **fire started**, or if a natural disaster took place. This will help them to keep the information fresh in their memories.

Here are several important questions for this game:

- What if you suddenly realize **you can't see me** in the crowd?
- What if you **get lost** and you can't find a woman with a child to help you?
- What if **a stranger tells you** that I asked you to go with them?
- What if you're home alone and you suddenly **smell smoke**?

If your child is still very small

Write your **contact details** on cards and put them in the **pockets** of clothing and other places — like a **bag** the child uses. Then if you get separated, there will always be a way for the child to **communicate** the necessary information without remembering it.

Mystery item

The fact is, you can't be too **safe**. And you never know what kind of curve-ball **the city** will throw you. So it makes sense to have something special — like this mystery item — ready for an **unexpected** turn of events.

Search terms



When Findus Was Little and Disappeared



map of <type your city name here> ↗

The Christmas Pig ↗

fire-resistant clothing ↗

silly code name / word / phrase generator ↗

Question time



What's the scariest thing in the city? Why?



Do you feel confident going outside alone?



Where's the safest place at home if you need to hide from someone?



What natural disasters could occur in our state?

Creativity time

Design your own “Caution” sign — draw the shape, and then write your message in it.

There's more
out back —
follow the
arrow!



If this playbook gets lost in a crowd, there's very little chance that it will know how to find its way back to you — but don't worry. You can always find the digital version online if you follow the QR code. And while you're on the website, check out our other kits. They're awesome!.....

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IL 60061

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