

# Losing children on a school visit

It is frightening and it is a fact of life. A teacher takes a group of young children to a historic site, to the zoo or any other interesting location, and it is possible that one child might get separated from the group.

No matter how many helpers there are, and no matter how much care everyone takes, it can happen.

When a child does get separated from the group, and where that child is particularly young, it is often the case that the child will find it difficult to communicate with strangers – and few will be able to remember the phone number of their school.

However, many children will know their home phone number, or might well have a mobile phone with that number programmed in. So they phone home – and the parent phones the school in a panic.

Inevitably, the person who takes the call from the frantic parent will be the administrator, who is left with the job of appeasing the parent, contacting the teacher in charge of the visit, and handling the whole affair at a distance.

To overcome this problem many schools are now using School Visit Wristbands. At their best they are highly coloured, immediately visible, and printed to include the school's name and phone number (or indeed the mobile number of the teacher in charge). The best wrist bands are virtually impossible for the children to remove, and ensure that no matter what the situation the first phone call that is made goes to the school or the teacher on site.

No one can guarantee that a young child won't get separated from the group on a school visit. But what these wristbands do is ensure that the adult finding the child will make an immediate phone call to the school or the teacher, so that the child can be reunited with the group as quickly as possible.

We're very grateful to SG World who manufacture such wristbands for their information on this subject. The SG World School Visit Wristbands are available from 45p each from [www.theeducationcatalogue.co.uk](http://www.theeducationcatalogue.co.uk) or by calling SG World on 01270 588 211.

