ChildFund Alliance



SAFETY IS ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT JUST PLACES



ChildFund Alliance World Index 2026

CHILDREN'S LEAFLET

A LITTLE BOOK FOR YOU

SAFETY IS ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT JUST PLACES

You are one of more than **3,000 children** in 27 countries who told us what makes you feel safe. We listened to what you told us.
Your ideas can help children and adults make things better together.

Thank you.



Hi! I'm ROBIN.

I'll be with you on every page — let's look at what makes a place feel safe, together.

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

WHAT YOU TAUGHT US

"I feel safe with my friends – like a small family." - *a child in Ecuador*

A PLACE FEELS SAFE WHEN PEOPLE CARE

A place isn't safe just because of where it is on the map. It feels safe when people care, listen and protect each other. That was the biggest thing you told us.

"A safe place is where you feel free." - *children in Tanzania*

Many children told us that feeling safe is also about being listened to, treated kindly and feeling welcome.

You told us that you feel safe when...



- someone cares about you
- you can go to school
- no one hurts you
- people are fair
- the community helps each other
- your voice is heard

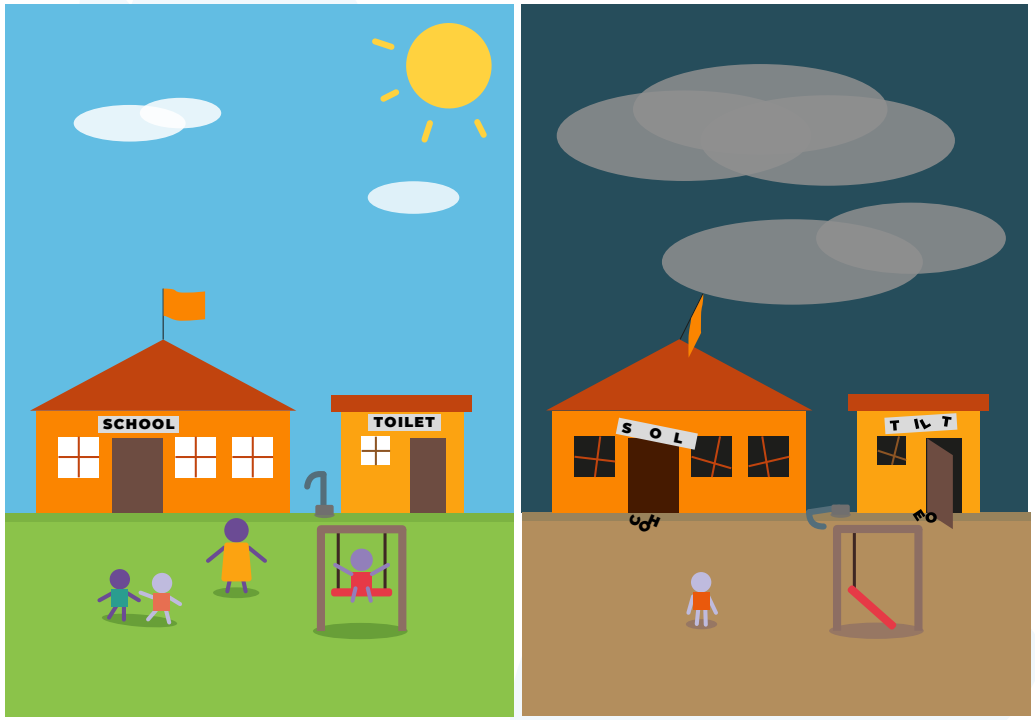
ACTIVITY 1 - SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Two schoolyards

Same school, two different days. Look closely — what makes one feel safe and the other not?

A safe place isn't just a building. It has to be built so that everyone can use it. It is where people are kind to each other and make everyone feel included.





ACTIVITY 2 - PEOPLE WHO HELP

Your helping hand

Having someone you trust is one of the strongest things you can have. Think of the adults you could go to if you felt worried or unsafe.

< TIP >

A trusted person can be a parent, an older sibling, a family member such as a cousin or an aunt/uncle, a teacher, a coach, a neighbour or a friend's mum or dad.

< REMEMBER >

You don't need to fill every finger. What matters most is having trusted people who make you feel safe, not how many names you write down.



LISTENING PROPERLY



HAVING AN ADULT ISN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH

> *"Hope that the adults will also listen."*
> *- a girl of 10 years old in the Philippines*

Many of you have someone you trust — that matters a lot. But trusting someone is only the first step. After you tell them, they need to listen properly and know what to do next and explain it to you.

ACTIVITY 3 - ROBIN'S STORY

One day, something happened that made me feel scared and confused. I didn't go straight home — I walked to Lila, my neighbour, the person I trust most. She opened the door, sat down with me and said, *"Tell me what happened. I'm listening."* She believed me. She didn't laugh or say it was nothing. Then we talked about what could could happen next, because there are lots of adults who can help, and even special helplines made just for children. Caring is the first step, and help can come from many people.

Who else could help too, as well as Lila? Maybe another adult you trust, a teacher, or a children's helpline. Draw or write your ideas.

ASKING FOR HELP

WHEN YOU NEED HELP, REACH FOR IT

This is what Lila could do — and what you can do too. Help, support, and trust can be found in different people. Start close to you, and if the first person can't help, keep going until someone does.

ACTIVITY 4 - PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP ME OR PROVIDE SUPPORT

< TIP >
It's okay to keep asking. Keep going until someone helps.
Fill this in together with an adult or your group leader.



BE PREPARED



BE READY, BEFORE IT HAPPENS

Sometimes there are small signs that something doesn't feel right. Spotting them early helps you act fast.

ACTIVITY 5 - SPOT THE SIGNS

Tick the signs you know. Add your own at the bottom.

- [ ] My tummy feels funny
- [ ] I feel scared or want to hide
- [ ] A secret feels wrong to keep
- [ ] A place feels different than usual
- [ ] My own sign: _____

ACTIVITY 6 - MAKE A PLAN

When something feels wrong, here are my three steps.

1. I notice a sign, like... _____
2. I tell this person... _____
3. I go to this safe place... _____

< TIP >

When you feel that something isn't right, don't ignore it. Your feelings matter and deserve to be listened to.

THE IDEAS YOU SHARED TO MAKE LIFE SAFER AND HAPPIER FOR CHILDREN

"Being a child means being protected, understood, and loved." - a girl in Senegal

ACTIVITY 7 - PICK YOUR TOP 3

These are some of the ideas children like you around the world shared with us to make life safer and happier for other children. Circle the three that matter most to you right now.

- ○ Being loved and cared for, every day
- ○ A school that supports me, not just teach
- ○ Being protected by people I trust
- ○ Being treated fairly - my opinion counts
- ○ A community that looks out for each other
- ○ Enough food, water, rest and time to play
- ○ Safer roads, lights at night, fences by water

Compare with a friend — did you pick the same three?
Is there something else that is important to you?

_____

_____

TAKING PART

BE PART OF IT



When children and adults listen to each other and work together, they can share good ideas, make better choices, and help things really change.

"Creating meetings where children feel part of a group, like a family." — *a girl in Ecuador*

ACTIVITY 8 - WAYS I CAN TAKE PART

Tick the ones you'd like to try.

- [ ] Join a children's club or group
- [ ] Share ideas with my school council
- [ ] Help younger children feel safe
- [ ] Speak up in community

"One way I'll use my voice..." for example, to share an idea that could improve my school, my group, or my community. Draw it here.

ACTIVITY 9 - YOUR VOICE

A message to my community

When children are listened to, they can dream bigger. What would you like adults in your community to know?

One thing that would make children safer is...

...because...

Keep speaking up. We're listening. Your voice counts.

YOUNG SAFETY CHAMPION

This certificate is proudly awarded to

for sharing your voice in the World Index 2026

SHARING THIS BOOK WITH A CHILD



This booklet turns the *ChildFund Alliance World Index 2026* findings into a conversation with children. Sit beside the child, go at their pace, and let their answers lead. Listen carefully, respond honestly, and help them see that their ideas can shape what adults do next. Five things to hold onto:

1. **Safety is relational**
   Children often feel safe because of who is present. Be a known, responsive adult who listens, notices, and helps the child feel believed.

2. **Trust needs a pathway**
   A trusted adult is not enough on its own. Make sure children know real, reachable help channels, including people and services they can contact if the first person cannot help.

3. **Act before the crisis**
   Help children recognise and name early signs, then rehearse a simple plan they can actually use: who to tell, where to go, and what to do if they still need help.

4. **Participation is ongoing**
   Act on what children propose whenever possible — and always tell them what happened next. This two-way response helps children understand that speaking up can lead to real change.

5. **If a child discloese harm**
   Stay calm, ensure confidentiality, but explain to the child that if, based on what they tell you, you become concerned that they may be in danger or at risk of harm, you will need to seek help from other trusted adults who can support them and help keep them safe, and follow your organisation's child-protection referral procedure.

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