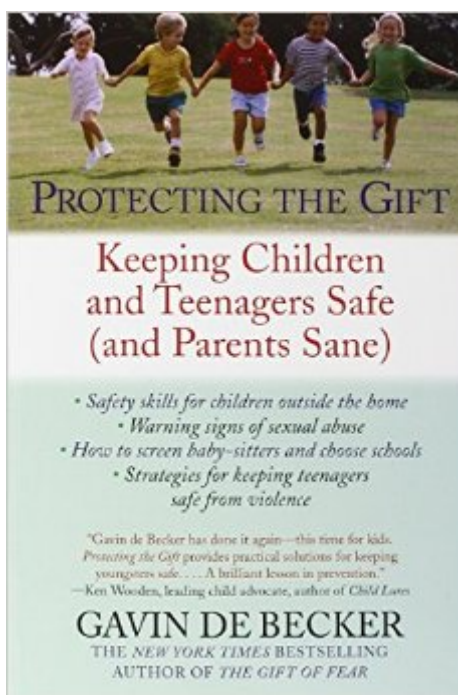


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# Protecting The Gift: Keeping Children And Teenagers Safe (and Parents Sane)



## Synopsis

Safety skills for children outside the home Warning signs of sexual abuse How to screen baby-sitters and choose schools Strategies for keeping teenagers safe from violence All parents face the same challenges when it comes to their children's safety: whom to trust, whom to distrust, what to believe, what to doubt, what to fear, and what not to fear. In this empowering book, Gavin de Becker, the nation's leading expert on predicting violent behavior and author of the monumental bestseller *The Gift of Fear*, offers practical new steps to enhance children's safety at every age level, giving you the tools you need to allow your kids freedom without losing sleep yourself. With daring and compassion, he shatters the widely held myths about danger and safety and helps parents find some certainty about life's highest-stakes questions: How can I know a baby-sitter won't turn out to be someone who harms my child? (see page 103) What should I ask child-care professionals when I interview them? (see page 137) What's the best way to prepare my child for walking to school alone? (see page 91) How can my child be safer at school? (see page 175) How can I spot sexual predators? (see page 148) What should I do if my child is lost in public? (see page 86) How can I teach my child about risk without causing too much fear? (see page 98) What must my teenage daughter know in order to be safe? (see page 191) What must my teenage son know in order to be safe? (see page 218) And finally, in the face of all these questions, how can I reduce the worrying? (see page 56)

## Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Dell; Reprint edition (May 9, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780440509004

ISBN-13: 978-0440509004

ASIN: 0440509009

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.9 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (267 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #15,076 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Safety & First Aid](#) #37 in [Books > Self-Help > Relationships > Conflict Management](#) #42 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Conflict Resolution](#)

## Customer Reviews

I would like to start off by saying that, had I read just the first couple chapters, I would have given the book one star. I think it's important to read the whole book before reviewing. There were things I liked about the book, and other things I did not. I will start off with the positives. The author explains in detail the signs that someone is trying to manipulate you, which can be applied to fraud, sexual predators, kidnappers, etc. They boil down to Forced Teaming, Charm and Niceness, Too Many Details, Typecasting, Loan-Sharking, The Unsolicited Promise, and Discounting the word "No". I won't go through each of these. You'll have to read the book for that. The author talks about how the "never talk to strangers" rule is harmful to children. He says on p.82, "In addition to the fact that it doesn't work, The Rule actually reduces safety in several ways. One is that within the message Never Talk to Strangers (because they may harm you) is the implication that people you know will not harm you." He offers really good questions to ask babysitters, nannies, daycare, school, and doctors. He feels it is very important to teach your child about touch, the body, boundaries, communication, assertiveness, and sovereignty over the body. I was very pleased to see this, as I have always been told that kids who know these things are far less likely to be abused. It concerns me when parents label their child's vulva/vagina "cookie" or something similar. Imagine, "Teacher, Johnny touched my cookie." Doesn't sound very alarming, does it? Replace it with, "Teacher, Johnny touched my vulva." That gets a lot more attention. He is supportive of victims of sexual abuse. On p.

While expecting our first baby and then as new parents, my wife and I received loads of excellent advice from friends and family regarding childbirth, doctors, baby-care, day-care, formula brands, etc. Last week, as a father with 8 weeks of experience in parenting, I had my first opportunity to offer advice to an expectant parent. I suggested she visit two day care centers I had liked, visit the pediatrician my wife and I chose, and read *Protecting the Gift* by Gavin de Becker. Gavin de Becker makes his living predicting and preventing violent behavior. His firm provides security and consultation to celebrities, athletes, world leaders, the CIA, U. S. Supreme Court and other security organizations around the world. In *Protecting the Gift*, de Becker introduces parents to startling statistics revealing the violent reality of our culture: one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually molested by the time they reach adulthood; 90 percent of sexual abuse is committed by someone the child knows; the most common age that sexual abuse begins is when the child is three years old. Most parents live with a mindset that denies or ignores this reality. But as de Becker shows in his book, our children are living in this reality everyday. De Becker's purpose in this book is two-fold: 1) to hit parents in the face with the real dangers awaiting children, and 2) to teach parents

how to avoid fruitless worry and to take meaningful steps to protect children. On both points, de Becker succeeds. Parents are raising children during an age when an FBI child-pornography sting indicts teachers, coaches, pastors and judges. It is an age of guns and date-rape drugs.

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