



Block Parent[®] Program of Canada

**A safer community
starts
on your street ...**

**become a
Block Parent[®] today!**



BLOCK PARENT® PROGRAM

For over 40 years, the Block Parent® Program has been helping to make our communities safer. Throughout Canada, the red and white Block Parent sign indicates a caring adult is available to help should the need arise.

Police, government departments, educators, sponsors and volunteers support the Block Parent goal of providing safer communities for children and other citizens.



How does the Block Parent® Program work?

Block Parents are responsible adults who care about the well-being of children and others and volunteer to help in an emergency. All Block Parents pass a Criminal Records Check and are given instructions on the Program by local volunteers.

The Block Parent window sign is displayed only when someone over the age of 18 years is available to answer the door. If the sign is not displayed, this does not mean that no one is home, only that the Block Parent is not available to offer immediate assistance.

In addition to the goal of making communities safer for children and others, the Block Parent Program deters criminals and troublemakers. Volunteers are working with police to make their neighbourhoods safer.

What are the goals of the Block Parent® Program?

Block Parent volunteers are working together to:

- Educate children and adults about the Block Parent Program and personal safety.
- Expand the network of Block Parents until there are several Block Parent homes or businesses on every block in every community in Canada.

The first sign of a safer community.



Education is the first step to safety.

What does a Block Parent® do?

A Block Parent may be called upon to offer help when someone is in a dangerous or threatening situation such as being:

- bullied
- lost, hurt or ill
- caught in severe weather
- frightened by a stranger
- locked out of the house or car

A Block Parent assists persons in distress by telephoning the appropriate emergency service (police, fire, ambulance, etc.) when necessary.

What is not expected of a Block Parent® ?

Block Parent volunteers are not expected to:

- provide food, drink, toilet facilities or transportation
- administer first aid
- leave their home to break up a fight
- open their door to anyone if they feel uneasy about the situation

Commonly asked questions

"Can I be a Block Parent if I work all day?"

Yes! Displaying the window sign for only a few hours a week will help. Block Parents are always needed – on weekends, after school, during the day and in the evening.

"Do I have to open my door to strangers?"

No! If you feel uneasy about the situation, offer assistance through a locked door. The individual can stay outside while you call the police or other necessary person. Your safety comes first.

"Aren't there enough Block Parents already?"

No! There need to be several Block Parent homes on every block to ensure that at least one Block Parent is available at any given time.

"I will always help – sign or no sign."

Of course! But children are taught to be cautious of strangers. The Block Parent sign indicates that a police screened adult is available to help.

"Do I have to be a parent?"

No! If you care about safer communities and are over the age of 18 years, you can apply to become a Block Parent.

Patron: His Excellency,
The Right Honourable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada