Talking to Young Children about ALICE

Remind your children that if they are concerned about something that might affect their safety or the safety of others they must go to an adult and let them know. Tell them that this is important to keeping all of us safe.

Ask them about some things they do to keep safe. (Examples: Look before we cross the street; ask permission before you leave class or go outside; and don’t talk to strangers when you are alone.)

Reassure children that most people are good and want to help us. Tell them it is unlikely that anything really bad will happen at school but that they will be practicing what they would do if a bad person came into their school and wanted to hurt them or others.

Tell them that the letters in the word ALICE will help them and their teachers remember what to do. Tell them they must follow the directions of adults in the building.

The “A” stands for Alert.
You or your teacher might hear or see something that lets you or them know there is a problem.

The “L” stands for Lockdown.
You will get quiet and out of sight, but you won’t hide in a closet or under your desks. You will spread out around the room. Your classroom door will be locked to keep the bad person out.

The “I” stands for Inform
You will tell others what you see or hear and others will tell you what they see or hear.

The “C” stands for Counter.
If the bad person comes to your room, your class will make lots of noise, move around the room and get out if you can. You can even throw things at the bad person to confuse them.

The “E” stands for Evacuate.
Sometimes you will leave your area to get away from the danger zone as quickly as possible. You won’t take anything with you that can slow you down. Your teachers will take you to a safe meeting place. You will listen to everything the police or fire fighters tell you to do.

Reassure them again that it very unlikely that anything bad will happen but they will practice at school just to be sure.