

PLAYING IT SAFE

Young children take a trip to Safety Town to learn important lessons



MICHAEL MORIATIS / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Children learn how to say "no" and mean it on Wednesday during a session of Safety Town, at Foothill School in Goleta. Below, Amy Bryant talks to 4- and 5-year-olds about the importance of saying no.

Yelling at school could land a youngster in trouble.

But yelling as a way to keep out of danger is exactly what children at Foothill School in Goleta learned to do on Wednesday.

Safety Town, sponsored by Soroptimists International of Santa Barbara, is intended to give not-quite-kindergartners and first-graders important lessons in safety. The week-long class includes a variety of speakers from public safety, health care and community organizations.

Wednesday's session on "Stranger Danger" and "Good-touch, Bad-touch," was presented by Ann Bryant, prevention and parenting coordinator from Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM). Youngsters learned about saying no in a way that gets attention — and maybe scares off the person they're saying no to — identifying "appropriate grown-ups to tell," and what organizers called the highlight of the presentation, the "Superhero Safety Yell."

— Scott Steepleton

