

Children aged 4 to 6 years



Search & Rescue Challenge Badge

% of cases	Distance between place missing and place found
25%	200 metres
50%	600 metres
75%	1.5 kilometres
80%	6.6 kilometres

% of cases	Likely places found
29%	Found in structures
15%	Found on roads
14%	Found on tracks/paths
13%	Found in woods
10%	Found by rivers, ponds or lakes
9%	Found by streams or ditches
6%	Found in fields

Other notes to consider

Children of this age are now at school, they are learning about new areas and begin to travel further afield.

They make new friends, check with their school for a class list -parents are unlikely to know who they are associating with.

All of the children found beyond the outer distance were either 'parental abductions' or the result of misunderstandings between parents or relatives as to who the child should be with.

Females of this age have a greater tendency to be traced at a friend's home, males tend to be found playing in the streets.

% of cases	Scenario
77%	Lost
12%	Overdue
4%	Unaware they are lost
3%	Hiding

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Investigation
Search home
Search places they like to play
Check classmates

Place last seen
Search 300 meters
Search local homes and gardens
Search play areas and parks

Immediate local area
Talk to neighbours
Search places where they tend to play
Check classmates

Investigative Questions and Actions

- Is the child's name marked in their clothing?
- Obtain the most recent picture and note when it was taken.
- Determine the child's home range/safety zone.
- Identify the furthest distance the child has travelled on their own.
- Ask how the child will likely react to lights, uniforms, sirens, police, dogs, other animals.
- How well can the child walk, run, climb and balance on objects?
- Is the child attracted to water; will they enter it?
- Any triggers for disappearance; recent arguments or upsets?
- Will the child cross roads?

Travel routes
Hasty search of roads, tracks, paths and other routes leading away from the place last seen
Look for routes to familiar places

Priority tasks
Check historical finds
Previous lost locations
High hazard areas, water, buildings, garages and sheds