

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **The Tennessean**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[<< Back](#)

## Keeping children safe is priority for Digikids

By Tena Lee  
Hendersonville Star News

Published: Friday, 05/25/07 As Mary Wilson searched the Internet for a business opportunity for her and her husband, she repeatedly asked herself the same question. "I kept asking, 'Is this something I would actually buy and use myself?'" she recalled. And when she came across a website for Digikids, a child safety identification kit, her answer was a resounding yes.

Mary and her husband Don recently launched the company's franchise in the Nashville metro area that includes the counties of Sumner, Davidson, Williamson and Rutherford. Founded in 2003, there are now 28 Digikids franchises across the country. So far, the Wilsons have the only one in Tennessee.

According to Mary Wilson, Digikids offers a child identification safety service for parents in the event their child is lost or abducted. Offered through schools, preschools, festivals or other public events, the service takes just a few minutes to record relevant information about the child onto a card-sized CD and an identification card for the parents to keep.

"Those first 20 minutes a child is missing are crucial," said Wilson. Having information like a child's photo, height, weight and birthmarks on a disk to give to law enforcement right away can be crucial she added. □

Sumner County Sheriff Bob Barker agrees and thinks the program would be a valuable tool for law enforcement should the need for it arise.

"I think it will speed up the process," said Barker who compares having the ID card and disk to having insurance. "Anything that a parent can do ahead of time is beneficial."

Barker said the disks and cards can especially come in handy if a child is lost while on vacation. "A lot of times, parents won't have a photo with them while they are on vacation," he said. He added many times parents may not know a child's weight or height right away either. Barker said he likes the fact that data from Digikids is not kept on a database. All of the information compiled goes onto a disk that is given to the parent, he said.

Once parents fill out a brief information sheet on their child, the CD takes just a few minutes to make.

The cost is \$15 for one CD and ID card and \$20 for two on the same child. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, around 2,000 children are reported missing each day. Many of those are runaway teens.

### Safety day planned

Last  
changed:  
Thursday,  
05/24/07

The Wilsons will have their Digikids safety kits available this Saturday, May 26 at a Child Safety Day sponsored by the Sumner County Sheriff's Department. The event will run from 8 a.m. to noon and will be held at the Sheriff's Department in Gallatin.

Others have been taken by non-custodial parents.

Still, Wilson noted, the threat of a child simply getting lost or abducted by a stranger always exists.

She herself has an ID card and disk for her nine-year-old daughter.

"In today's world you just never know," Wilson added.

" You can't be too prepared."

Published: Friday, 05/25/07

---