

# ESCALATORS AND ELEVATORS

Living in the woods, as my family and I do, we had a crazy experience one day when we went to the city to visit my auntie in hospital. There in front of us was an escalator. I'd never seen anything like it. What happened next was crazy.

Dad led all of us kids up the escalator without even thinking. He had been on them loads of times. It was all the rest of us could do to try and keep up with him. Then it happened. My little brother Joey went down first and dragged me down with him and then Tabitha. Little Bobby went down backwards and just sort of spun in circles half on the escalator and half off. My dad had a look of horror on his face as he tried to run down the escalator the wrong way to rescue us.

## FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



### EARN THIS NUGGET

- Ride an escalator ten times or until you feel totally comfortable getting on and off, and standing in an appropriate position when riding.
- Use an elevator also. Understand the floor buttons, door open button, and emergency button. Also, have you or your parent try stopping the door with your hand.

Now don't be worried. Using an escalator is easy, but you do need to follow some simple rules to stay safe.

- Make sure you don't have loose clothing hanging down on the floor or untied shoe laces.
  - Make sure you are getting on the right one. The stairs should, of course, be moving away from you. Seems obvious, but I thought I better mention it.
  - As you get on, first stand in front of the escalator, in the middle. You need to have a comfortable reach to that moving handrail.
  - As you step on, hold the handrail and step on at the same-ish speed as the escalator is moving.
  - Stand in the center of the step. You want to keep your feet away from those edges.
  - If you are in a busy area like an airport, it is usual for people to stand to the right, so that people who are in a hurry can walk past you on the left.
  - When it comes to getting off, step off and walk. You should be able to step off at the same speed as the escalator is moving and it should be really smooth.
- Now elevators are a whole lot easier. Just stand and press buttons. But there are a few things you should know about these.
- Those doors will not close on you. If they start to and touch you, they will open again. So don't worry.
  - There is a "door open" button you can use if someone is trying to get to the elevator and the door is about to close.
  - There is also an emergency button, in case you get stuck in the elevator (very rare thing to happen).
  - Now remember this, in an emergency, like a fire, never, never, never use an elevator, always use the stairs.

