

# Parking Lot Safety:

## Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet

### DID YOU KNOW?

Children's ability to understand and make decisions about their safety changes as they grow and develop.

*Students in Kindergarten and First Grade have difficulty:*

- **CONTROLLING IMPULSES** and concentrating
- **JUDGING WHEN IT IS SAFE** to cross the street
- **STAYING FOCUSED** on one task, such as safely crossing the road
- **UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES** between safe and unsafe crossings

### This Week in School Your Child Learned...



#### How to behave in parking lots

1. **PARKING LOTS** are places where people leave their cars, trucks, or bicycles when they are not in use.
2. **WAIT** for an adult to open the car door to let you out.
3. **STAY 3 STEPS AWAY** from car bumpers and tail lights.
4. **STAY CLOSE** to the adult at all times. They are more visible than children.
5. **WALK, DON'T RUN** when moving in parking lots.
6. **RE-ENTER** the car on the same side as the driver.
7. **FREEZE** if you drop something. Ask an adult to get it for you.

**Remember:** Although you might be able to quickly see that it is safe to cross the road or how to walk through a parking lot, your child may not know or understand why it is safe. Help them understand and learn safe behaviors by practicing them each time you walk in parking lots.

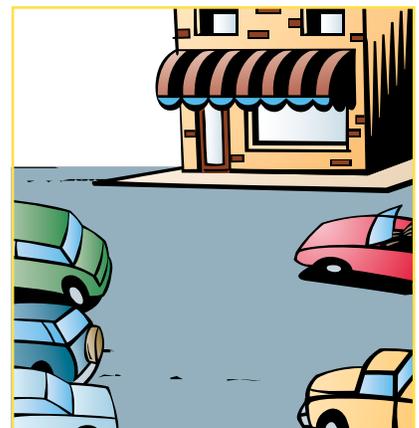
# Parking Lot Safety:

## PRACTICE AT HOME!

**Safety Message:** Children ages 5-6 are still learning what it means to walk safely. They should always be with an adult while walking.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe parking lot behavior with an adult. As your child grows, revisit these safety concepts often to make sure he or she is still practicing safe pedestrian behavior.

- **Ask** your child what a parking lot is before you reach your destination.
  - **Parking lots are places where people leave their cars, trucks, or bicycles when they are not in use.**
- **Ask** your child how to safely get out of the car. Do you open the door and jump out?
  - **No! Wait for an adult to open the door to let you out. Adults are taller and easier for drivers to see than children.**
- **Ask** your child how to safely walk around in parking lots.
  - Ask the adult if it is safe to get out of the car. When the adult says yes, take their hand and get out of the car.
  - Get out of the car on the same side as the adult.
- **Use the same skills that you learned for crossing streets safely:**
  - Look left-right-left (touch your chin to your shoulder to make sure you can see both sides!) before leaving the parking space.
  - When there are no cars coming, walk (don't run) with the adult.
- **When walking in the parking lot remember to:**
  - Keep 3 big steps away from the back of the cars.
  - Stay close to the adult at all times.
  - Always walk, never run through parking lots.
- **Ask** your child what to do if they drop something and it rolls away.
  - Tell the adult and ask them to get it for you.
- **Ask** your child how to safely re-enter the car.
  - Get in on the same side as the driver.
  - Scoot to your seat inside the car.
  - Buckle up.
- **Repeat** the lessons every chance you get!



Looking at the picture, ask your child to walk you through the steps of getting out of a car and into the store. Ask them where they should walk in relation to cars (3 big steps from their bumpers) and what to do if they drop a toy into an empty space (ask an adult for help).