

Crossing Streets Safely: 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 cross streets safely

1. **CROSS WITH AN ADULT.**
2. **IDENTIFY** safe places to cross. Cross where it is easy for you to see vehicles traveling in the road.
3. **STOP** at the edge or curb of the street.
4. **LOOK AND LISTEN** for traffic in all directions. When looking left, right, left for traffic try to touch your chin to your shoulder to make sure you get a good view. This is called a “shoulder check”. Wait until there is no traffic coming. Then begin crossing the street.
5. **CROSS IN A STRAIGHT LINE** and keep looking for traffic. Walk quickly, but do not run.

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

Crossing Streets Safely:

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 crossing skills with an adult. Remember that skills and knowledge do not always equal behavior. As your child grows, revisit these safety concepts often to make sure he or she is still practicing safe pedestrian behavior.

- **Walk** along a route in your neighborhood that has sidewalks (preferably on both sides of the street) and a crosswalk. Children will learn specifically about crosswalks in the next lesson, but it is helpful to begin to demonstrate safe crossing with a crosswalk if one exists in your neighborhood.
- **Ask** your child what they learned in school about crossing the street safely. Practice the 5 steps to safely crossing the street. Use the picture at the bottom of the page to show what you should do for each step.
 1. **CROSS WITH AN ADULT.**
 2. **FIND A SAFE PLACE TO CROSS** – one that is free of barriers like trees. Cross where it is easy for you to see vehicles traveling in the road.
 3. **STOP AT THE EDGE** of the curb or street. (Ask them to point to what a curb or edge is.)
 4. **LOOK AND LISTEN** for traffic in all directions. (Look left, right, and left again). When looking for traffic try to touch your chin to your shoulder to make sure you get a good view. This is called a “shoulder check”. Wait until there is not traffic is coming. Then begin crossing the street.
 5. **CROSS IN A STRAIGHT LINE** and keep your head up looking for traffic. Walk, don’t run across the street.
- **Practice** the 5 Safe Steps again. Find a place where it will be safe to cross the street. Try saying the steps aloud as you cross together.
- **Repeat** the lesson every chance you get!

Looking at the picture, ask your child to identify where a person should cross.

Ask them to point to a safe area to cross.

Ask them to point to the edge of the street.

Ask them to show you how they would cross in a straight line across the street.

