

# Walking Safely Near Traffic: 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 Second and Third Grade:*

- **Need supervision** as they learn more complicated safety skills
- **Can identify** safe crossings with help and practice
- **Can learn** how to identify traffic and stay focused while crossing the street with help and practice

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



### How to walk near traffic safely

1. **PEDESTRIANS** are people who walk.
2. **TRAFFIC** is vehicles in the road.
3. **SIDEWALKS** are safe places to walk.
4. **WALK ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE STREET** if there are no sidewalks. Face the traffic.
5. **PRACTICE SAFE BEHAVIOR** when walking near traffic. This means no pushing, running, or shoving. Don't let toys, phones or MP3 players distract you.
6. **DRESS TO BE SEEN** by wearing bright-colored clothing and reflective materials. Use a flashlight when it is dark.

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

# Walking Safely Near Traffic:

## PRACTICE AT HOME!

**Safety Message:** Children ages 7-8 can begin to learn more complicated pedestrian safety tasks. Even though they are older, they should always be with an adult while walking near or around traffic.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe walking skills with an adult. Remember that skills and knowledge do not always equal behavior. Make sure that your child is ready for the next step in learning how to walk safely by practicing these skills at home!

- **Walk** around the neighborhood with your child, especially to destinations that they like such as a park, school, or a friend's house. Find a route that has sidewalks as well as a route or part of a route that does not.
- **Ask** your child to explain the three new terms that they learned in class
  - What do you call people who are walking? **Pedestrians**
  - What are vehicles? **Cars, trucks and buses that take us from one place to another.**
  - What is traffic? **Vehicles in the road.**
- **Ask** your child to explain where they should walk in relation to the traffic
  - **Find a sidewalk and walk there.**
- **Ask** what do you do if there isn't a sidewalk?
  - **Walk on the left side of the street facing the traffic so that you can see drivers coming towards you.**
- **Practice** identifying safe places to walk where there are sidewalks and where there are no sidewalks.
- **Ask** your child what clothing is best for walking.
  - **Bright-colored or reflective clothing so that drivers can see you.**
  - **If you know it will be dark outside what should you do?**
    - Use a flashlight when walking.
- **Repeat** the lessons on the way home and every chance you get!

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

Ask them to point to the sidewalk and traffic.

