

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 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 cross neighborhood and residential streets safely

1. **FIND AN ADULT** to cross the street with you.
2. **IDENTIFY** safe places to cross while avoiding barriers.
3. **STOP** at the edge or curb of the street.
4. **LOOK AND LISTEN** for traffic in all directions. Look left-right-left. Wait until there is no traffic coming. Then begin crossing the street.
5. **CROSS IN A STRAIGHT LINE** and keep looking around for traffic. Walk; don't run across the street.

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

Crossing Streets Safely:

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 street crossing 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 safely cross the street by practicing these skills at home!

- **Walk** a route around 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. Ask them to list the 5 steps to safely crossing the street. Use the diagram below if they need help. Offer clues if they need them.
 1. **FIND AN ADULT** to cross the street with you.
 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 what a curb or edge is and what to use as an edge if there are parked cars.)
 4. **LOOK AND LISTEN** for traffic in all directions. (Look left, right, and left again). Wait until no traffic is coming and start to cross 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. 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.

