

Walking Safely Near Traffic: Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet

DID YOU KNOW?

Children develop the ability to understand and make decisions about their safety at different rates. The degree of supervision they require depends upon the capabilities of the individual child.

In general, students in fourth and fifth 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 safely near traffic

1. **PEDESTRIANS** are people who walk.
2. **SIDEWALKS** are safe places to walk.
3. **WALK ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE STREET** if there are no sidewalks. Face the traffic.
4. **PRACTICE SAFE BEHAVIOR** when walking near traffic. This means no pushing, running, or shoving. Don't let toys, phones or MP3 players distract you.
5. **BEWARE OF DRIVEWAYS** and stop at every one to make sure cars aren't coming in or out.
6. **WEAR BRIGHT-COLORED/REFLECTIVE MATERIAL** and carry a flashlight if you are out at dusk or dark.

Remember: Your child is starting to show that they understand what safe behavior is and why it is important. Help them reinforce safe pedestrian behaviors by practicing with them each time you walk near or around traffic.

Walking Safely Near Traffic:

PRACTICE AT HOME!

Safety Message: Children ages 9-10 are still learning what it means to be safe. They should always be aware that they are setting an example for younger children while also proving to you that they will soon deserve independence.

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

- **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 term that they reviewed in class.
 - PEDESTRIAN – A person who is walking/traveling on foot.
- **Ask** your child what clothing is best for walking.
 - Bright-colored or reflective material so that drivers can see you. Bright colors like white and yellow are good. Dark colors like black and purple are not. Also use a flashlight to be seen.
- **Ask** your child to explain where and why they should walk in relation to the traffic.
 - Find a sidewalk and walk there.
- **Ask** what you do if there isn't a sidewalk? Why?
 - Walk on the left side of the street facing the traffic so that you can see the oncoming cars and drivers.
- **Ask** your child what a driveway is and what to do if they come upon one during their walk.
 - Driveways are places where cars cross the sidewalk to get to a place off the road like a home or a parking lot.
 - You should always stop at the edge and look left-right-left to make sure that cars are not coming in or out of a driveway. Once it is clear, you can walk across.
- **Practice** identifying safe places to walk where there are sidewalks and where there are no sidewalks.
- **Repeat** the lesson 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.

Ask them to show where a driveway is.

