

# Crossing Streets Safely: 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 such as how to cross streets safely
- **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 streets safely

1. **IDENTIFY** a safe place to cross, avoiding barriers.
2. **STOP** at the curb or edge of the street.
3. **LOOK AND LISTEN** for traffic. Remember to look left-right-left to make sure the road is clear.
4. **WAIT** until there is no traffic coming. Then begin crossing the street.
5. **CROSS IN A STRAIGHT LINE** and keep looking around for traffic.
6. **WALK**, don't run across the street.
7. **REMEMBER** that you are now a role model for younger, less experienced children.

**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.

# Crossing Streets Safely:

## PRACTICE AT HOME!

**Safety Message:** Children ages 9 and 10 can gradually learn more complicated pedestrian safety tasks. Even though they are older, they should be with an adult while walking near or around traffic until they continuously and repeatedly demonstrate safe pedestrian skills.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe street-crossing 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** a route around your neighborhood that has sidewalks.
- **Ask** your child what they learned in school about crossing the street safely. Ask them to list the 6 steps to safely crossing the street. Have them act out each step and lead you on your walk.
  1. **FIND A SAFE PLACE TO CROSS** – one that is free of barriers like trees. Cross at a crosswalk if there is one around.
  2. **STOP AT THE EDGE** of the curb or street.
  3. **LOOK AND LISTEN** for traffic in all directions. (Look left, right, and left again.)
  4. **CROSS QUICKLY AND SAFELY** in a straight line. Do not run.
  5. **BE CAUTIOUS** in bad weather.
  6. **BE A ROLE MODEL** for younger children.
- **Practice** the 6 Safe Steps. Find a place where it will be safe to cross the street. Try saying the steps out loud as you cross together.
- **Repeat** the lesson every chance you get!

Looking at the picture, ask your child to identify a safe place to cross the street (not near the parked cars).

Ask them to recite the six steps to crossing the street safely.

