

Parking Lot Safety:

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 behave safely in parking lots

1. **PARKING LOTS** are places where people leave their cars, trucks or bicycles when they are not in use.
2. **CAREFULLY** exit the car. Try to get out on the same side as the driver. If you can't, wait until the driver says it is safe to get out.
3. **STAY CLOSE** to the adult at all times. They are more visible than children.
4. **WALK, DON'T RUN** when moving in parking lots.
5. **RE-ENTER** the car on the same side as the driver.
6. **FREEZE** if you drop something. Ask the adult to get it for you.

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.

Parking Lot Safety:

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 parking lot behavior with an adult. As your child grows, revisit these safety issues often to make sure he or she is still practicing safe pedestrian behavior.

- **Ask** your child to describe a parking lot before you reach your destination.
 - Parking lots are places where people leave their cars, trucks or bicycles when they are not in use.
- **Ask** your child how to safely get out of the car.
 - Try to get out on the same side as the driver. If you can't do this, wait for the driver to tell you that it is safe to exit the car.
- **Ask** your child how to safely move around parking lots.
 - Don't play around with friends or push.
 - Always walk, never run through parking lots.
 - Walk on the left side, a few steps away from the back of the parked cars.
 - Stay close to an adult.
 - Be aware of your surroundings.
- **Ask** your child what to do if they drop something and it rolls away.
 - Tell the adult and ask them to get it for you.
- **Ask** your child how to safely re-enter the car.
 - Get in on the same side as the driver.
 - Sit in your seat and buckle up.
- **Practice** and say the safe steps out loud.
- **Repeat** the lessons every chance you get!

Looking at the picture, ask your child to show how to properly exit and re-enter the car.

Discuss with your child how to safely behave in parking lots.

