

# Crossing Intersections 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 Kindergarten and First Grade have difficulty:*

- **CONTROLLING IMPULSES** and concentrating
- **JUDGING WHEN IT IS SAFE** to cross the street
- **STAYING FOCUSED** on one task, such as safely crossing the road
- **UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES** between safe and unsafe crossings

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



### How to cross intersections safely

1. **ALWAYS CROSS WITH AN ADULT.**
2. **STOP** as soon as you reach the edge of a road, an intersection or a driveway.
3. **IDENTIFY** where cars may be coming from.
4. **LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT**, in front of you and behind you. Touch your chin to your shoulder to make sure that you are looking as far as you can.
5. **LOOK FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS** to know when it is your turn to cross.
6. **DECIDE** when it is safe to cross by using traffic signals, looking left-right-left, and listening for traffic.
7. **CROSS QUICKLY AND SAFELY** when no cars are coming in any direction.

**Remember:** Although you might be able to quickly see that it is safe to cross roads or intersections, your child may not know or understand why it is safe. Help them understand and learn safe behaviors by practicing them each time you cross at an intersection.

# Crossing Intersections Safely:

## PRACTICE AT HOME!

**Safety Message:** Children ages 5-6 are still learning what it means to walk safely. They should always be with an adult while walking.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe crossing intersection skills with an adult. As your child grows, revisit these safety concepts 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 friend's house. Find a route that has intersections.
- **Ask** your child what an intersection is.
  - **An intersection is a place where two roads meet. Cars can come from four directions.**
- **Ask** your child to explain how to look left-right-left, front and behind.
  - First look left. If there are no cars coming, look right. If there are no cars coming check left again to see if any new cars are coming. **Make sure that when you are looking each direction your chin touches your shoulder. This is called a "shoulder check".** (Doing this helps with peripheral vision)
  - Then if there are no cars, check behind you and in front of you. If there are still no cars, look left one more time and then walk slowly into the intersection or driveway.
- **Ask** your child who decides when it is safe to cross.
  - **Only the adult you are walking with can decide when it is safe.** You cannot rely on stop lights or "Walk/Don't Walk" signals to make that decision for you.
- **Practice** crossing an intersection in your neighborhood. Say the steps (left-right-left, front and behind and then left again) out loud. Make sure your child can identify signals/signs and their meanings.
- **Repeat** the lessons every chance you get!

Looking at the picture, ask your child to explain where the cars are coming.

Ask them how to decide when it is safe to cross.

Ask them to explain what each signal is, and how to read them.

