

Walking Safely Near Traffic: 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 walk safely near traffic

1. **WALKERS** are people who walk.
2. **TRAFFIC** is cars and trucks in the road.
3. **SIDEWALKS** are safe places to walk.
4. **ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT.** Older siblings may also be acceptable, but only if they are responsible and have permission from a parent.
5. **FACE THE TRAFFIC** if there are no sidewalks. Walk on the left side of the street.
6. **STOP AT DRIVEWAYS** to check for cars.
7. **PRACTICE SAFE BEHAVIOR** when walking near traffic. This means no pushing, running, or shoving.
8. **DRESS TO BE SEEN** by wearing bright-colored clothing and reflective materials. Use a flashlight when it is dark.

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

Walking Safely Near Traffic:

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 walking 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.

- **Ask** your child what clothing is best for walking; bright or dark colored?
 - **Bring and wear bright-colored or reflective materials so that drivers can see you. White, yellow, and orange colors are great. Black, Purple, and dark blue are not the best choices. Bring a flashlight with you.**
- **Ask** your child if they can tell you the meaning of the two new terms that they learned in class.
 - What is a walker? **They are people who walk.**
 - What is traffic? **This includes any cars, buses or trucks moving in the road.**
- **Walk** around the neighborhood with your child, especially to destinations that they like such as a park, school, or a friend's home. Find a route that has sidewalks as well as a route or part of a route that does not.
- **Ask** your child to explain where they should walk in relation to the traffic.
 - **Find a sidewalk and walk there.**
 - What do you do if there isn't a sidewalk? **Walk facing the traffic so that you can see the drivers.**
- **Ask** your child what they should do if a driveway crosses the sidewalk.
 - What is a driveway? **A place that a car uses to enter or exit a street.**
 - What do you do when you see a driveway? **Stop and look for cars.**
 - Where could the car come from? **Left or right. Cars are coming from the road to use the driveway, or from the driveway to get onto the road.**
- **Practice** identifying safe places to walk where there are sidewalks and where there are no sidewalks.
- **Repeat** the lessons 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.

