

Pedestrian Safety Basics

Subject: Health



OVERVIEW:

Students will go over basic safety rules. Each pair of students will write and draw a specific safety rule. In the second part of the lesson, students will play a guessing Jeopardy-like game to review these rules.

BACKGROUND:

This lesson gives children many of the tools to become confident and wise walkers. Students will practice safe street conduct by interacting in simulated real life situations to help develop their decision-making skills and gain confidence in themselves.

These basic safety tools can help promote pedestrian safety in your community, while gaining an understanding of the pedestrian safety rules.



OBJECTIVES: Students go over basic safety rules by making posters and playing a guessing game.



MATERIALS:

- Safe Pedestrian Practices worksheet
- Large poster paper and art supplies to make posters



SETTING: indoors



ESTIMATED TIME:
40 minutes



VOCABULARY:

- Street, Car, Crosswalk, Safety, Left, Right, Intersection



ACTIVITY SOURCE:

Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Pedestrian Safety Guide

LESSON SET-UP:

1. Go over basic safety rules.
2. Set out art supplies and paper for each pair of students.

STATE STANDARDS

Language Arts

2.2: Write a brief expository description of a real object, person, place or event, using sensory details.

Visual Arts:

4.2: Identify and describe various reasons for making art.



Pedestrian Safety Basics

BUILDING BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

1. Conduct a brief oral survey. Ask students to raise hands if they sometimes bicycle, walk, skate, scooter or carpool to get around to stores, friends and relatives' homes, school or lessons.
2. Hold an interactive discussion about walking and bicycling to school. Cover the following questions:
 - Are students allowed to walk or bike to school on their own in 1st grade?
 - If students can't walk or bike to school, what are the reasons?
 - Will students be able to walk or bike to school on their own when they get older?
 - Name some other places students walk and bike.
 - What are some safety concerns to look out for while walking or bicycling to school?
3. Go over the basic safety rules for walking and crossing streets.
 - Make a list of these rules on the blackboard or large piece of butcher paper.

ACTIVITY:

PART I (Safety Posters):

1. Have students get into pairs (or put them into pairs).
2. Assign each pair a safety rule.
3. Have them write down the safety rule and illustrate it.
 - You could give the students a large piece of poster paper for each rule and then display these posters in the class (or hallway), OR
 - Give them smaller pieces of paper and make the rules into a class book.

PART II (QUESTION GAME):

1. This game works best by first dividing the class into two teams. To make it more fun, have each team pick out a team name.
2. Read each question out loud and call on the first team to raise their hand after the question has

been read. For each correct answer a team gives they receive a point (it works great if the teams miraculously tie at the end of the game).

QUESTIONS:

Q: Name three reasons to walk?

A: Fun, exercise, to get places, to save money, doesn't pollute (*suggested answers*)

Q: Why do we look to the left a second time?

A: Cars coming from the left are going to be on the side of the street closest to us.

Q: Explain the difference between a sidewalk and a crosswalk.

A: A sidewalk is a place next to the street made for pedestrians. A crosswalk is an area that crosses the street at an intersection where pedestrians can cross the street.

Q: Who should drivers make eye contact with before you cross the street?

A: Drivers should be making eye contact with *you!*

Q: On a busy street, where is it safest to cross?

A: It is safest to cross in a crosswalk at the corner of the intersection.

Q: What should you do when there is a green light or a walk signal?

A: You need to first check for yourself to make sure that it is safe to walk. Drivers could be turning left, or could be going through a red light that might cross through your path.

Q: What would you do if you look to the left a second time and you see a vehicle coming?

A: After the vehicle passes, you need to start over and look left-right-left and ahead and behind you one more time.

- What are three ways to get places that don't pol-

EXTENSION IDEAS

1. Follow this lesson up with "Walk Around the Block" to give the students practice in crossing actual streets.
2. As a **Language Arts** extension, write the sentence: "I cross the street safely by..." and have them draw a picture of them crossing the street safely while finishing the sentence.

Safe Pedestrian Practices

Crossing a Street

1. Stop at the curb (or first edge). If there is a second edge, walk to it and stop.
2. If there is a visual barrier, like a car, find a better spot to cross.
3. Look to the left, to the right, and again to the left for traffic.
4. Cross only when it is safe, and scan to the left and to the right for vehicles as you cross.
5. Walk in a straight line to the other side of the street, until you are out of the way of traffic.

Do's and Don'ts for Crossing the Street

1. Don't chase a ball into the street.
2. Don't cross from between two cars.
3. Don't cross alone.
4. Don't cross at an angle.
5. Don't run.
6. If a car passes while you are looking left and right, start again.
7. Cross with an adult.

Crossing an Intersection

1. Use the crossing button if the intersection has a traffic signal (and if a button is available).
2. Wait for the walking person or "WALK" symbol before crossing.
3. Look to the left, to the right, again to the left, and then BEHIND you before crossing.
4. Scan to the left, right, front and behind you as you cross.
5. Stop if you see a car turning into the crosswalk. Do not try to beat it.
6. Stay in the crosswalk, if there is one.
7. When finished crossing, step up onto the curb.

Do's and Don'ts for Crossing the Intersection

1. Don't run across the intersection.
2. Wait for any turning car to pass. There is more room behind the car than in front of it.
3. Don't cross alone.
4. Don't cross at an angle.
5. Cross with an adult.



