**Northshore School District**

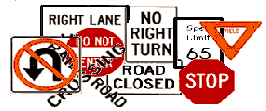
**Child Walking Safety - A Guide for Parents**

**What can parents do?**

* Teach your child how to follow traffic signals and read signs.
* If your child walks to school or to a friend's house, find the safest route.
* Walk it with your child every day.
* When your child is used to the route, let her walk it without you.
* Set a good example. Practice pedestrian safety, even if your child is not with you. Someone else's child may be watching you and follow your example.
* Follow traffic signs when driving. Stop at crosswalks. Drive the speed limit. Drive with caution.

**What safety tips should I teach my child?**

* Walk when crossing streets. Don't run.
* Cross at street corners. Go straight. Not in a diagonal line.
* Stop at the curb. Look both directions before you cross the street. Look one way, look the other way, and then look back the other way again. If there are no cars, cross. If there is a car, wait.
* Teach children to watch for cars turning from side streets.
* Use crosswalks.
* At crosswalks, make eye contact with the driver before you cross.
* Cross only when the sign says to "walk." If it says "don't walk" before you get across, make eye contact with drivers and quickly walk to the other side. Do not stop in the middle.
* Do not cross behind parked cars or bushes. Do not cross behind or between cars.
* Cross in front of the school bus after getting off.
* Be extra careful in bad weather. It's harder for drivers to see and harder to slow down or stop.

**Quick Answers**

* Children are at risk for pedestrian injuries because they are not yet able to make good decisions about traffic.
* Injuries can happen at any time.
* Injuries can happen anywhere, even on dry, straight streets with little traffic.
* Injuries can happen to anyone. Children ages 5-14 are at risk, but children under 10 years old are at greatest risk.
* If your child walks to school or to a friend's house, find the safest route. Walk it with your child every day until you feel sure she can safely walk alone.
* Avoid letting children walk in the dark. If they must, they should wear reflective clothing.
* Teach children how to read traffic signs and how to cross the street safely.