

National Pedestrian Safety Month

October 2024



Whether children walk to school, the park or to a friend's house, here are some simple tips to make sure they get there safely during the month of October and each and every day.

1. Teach children to look in all directions before crossing the street and to continue looking until safely across the street.
2. Encourage children to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Teach children not to run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
3. Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
4. Children under 10 should cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, most children are unable to judge the speed and distance of oncoming cars until age 10.
5. Encourage children to be especially alert for cars that are turning or backing up out of parking lots and driveways.
6. Avoid having children walk when it's dark outside. If it is unavoidable, teach them to be alert and make sure they are visible to drivers by wearing brightly colored clothing and reflective gear.
7. Teach children to put phones, headphones, and devices away when walking and most importantly when crossing the street. It is particularly important to reinforce the message with teenagers. If children need to use a cell phone, teach them to stop walking and find a safe area to talk or text.



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