

# CROSSWALK SAFETY

Crosswalk safety near schools requires a combined effort from students, parents and drivers to stay alert, visible, and patient. As a parent, teaching your kids about crosswalk safety is one of the most valuable lessons you can share. Here are some important tips to keep them safe on their journey to and from school.

## 1 Be a Good Role Model

- Children learn by watching parents and adults.
- Always follow the rules of the road and obey traffic signs and signals.
- Walk with children and practice safe pedestrian behaviors.
- Following the rules of the road makes pedestrians more predictable and more likely to be seen by drivers.

## 2 Supervise Young Children

- Children under 10 years of age need supervision when walking near driveways, parked cars and when crossing the street.
- Children who know all of the road safety rules may not remember to follow them.
- Hold a child's hand when near cars and model safe pedestrian behavior.
- Always STOP at driveways, look for cars and wait until it is safe to cross.

## 3 Cross the Street Safely

- Stop at the curb or edge of the road.
- Even if there is a crossing light and you have the "walk" signal, it is still important to check that all cars have stopped before crossing.
- Walk as a group when crossing with other pedestrians instead of walking on your own. There is more safety and visibility in numbers.
- Look left, look right and look left again.
- Wait until no traffic is coming to start crossing the street.
- Keep looking and listening for traffic as you cross the street.
- Look for cars that are turning when crossing a corner or intersection.



## 4 Be Alert and Avoid Distractions

- Do not be distracted by devices like smartphones or even just by chatting with friends.
- Be sure to remove headphones or earbuds while crossing the street to ensure you can hear any approaching vehicles.

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## 5 Streets are for Vehicles – Walk on the Sidewalk

- Make it a rule not to play in the street.
- Stay on the sidewalk and avoid walking on the road.
- If you must walk on the road that does not have sidewalks, always walk facing on-coming vehicles, as far away from traffic as possible.

## 6 Cross at the Corner or Intersection

- Use the crosswalk, when available, and follow all traffic signs and signals.
- Look for traffic in all directions, including over your shoulder to look for vehicles that are turning.



## 7 Crossing at Locations Away from a Corner or Intersection

- When a crosswalk or intersection is not available, cross the street in a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic.
- Walk to the edge of any parked cars, bushes or other objects that block the view of traffic and stop to look for traffic.
- Look left, look right and look left again and wait for a gap in the traffic that allows enough time to cross safely.
- Look for cars entering and exiting driveways and vehicles backing up in parking lots.

## 8 Be Safe and Be Seen

- Don't assume that if you see the driver, the driver sees you.
- Make eye contact with drivers before stepping into the road to cross the street.
- Be aware that weather conditions and time of day may make it more difficult to be seen when walking.
- Wear brightly colored clothing and reflective gear to be more visible to drivers.

## 9 Walk

- Do not run across the street.
- Running to beat the traffic is not safe, increases the risk of tripping and not being able to stop if a car suddenly appears.

