



Make Sure Children Know The Rules of Pedestrian Safety

Although people of all ages are at risk of injury, children are especially vulnerable. Children are particularly at risk when they dart unexpectedly into traffic, enter a street in the middle of a block, and dash into the street from between parked cars. To keep safe, it's critical that we remember to supervise them as they approach and cross streets, no matter how mature or street savvy they seem to be.

It's also important to plan safe walking routes for school-age children and to regularly review the pedestrian safety tips.

Advise children to follow these tips to enable them to see potential hazards:

- Don't cross a roadway in the middle of the block. If a crosswalk isn't available, stop at the curb/edge of the road and look for approaching vehicles before stepping into the street.
- Always look to the left, to the right and back to the left for approaching traffic. Continue to look until you have crossed the street safely.
- If your view of approaching traffic is blocked by parked cars (or something else), move out to where a driver can see you and you can see an approaching vehicle. Then stop and look left, right, left again for approaching traffic before crossing. At intersections, be sure to look over your shoulder for turning vehicles, in addition to looking for oncoming traffic.
- Watch out for cars backing out of parking spaces in shopping areas and malls or out of drive ways.

Advise children to follow these tips so they can be seen by motorists:

- Wear bright colored clothing to help drivers see you more readily.
- Walking in low-light or nighttime hours is risky. Protect yourself by carrying a flashlight and wear retroreflective materials that identify you as a pedestrian to drivers.

Review these tips to help children make the right decisions when walking:

- Where there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic and keep as far to the left side of the roadway as possible.
- If you cross a residential street, stop where you can see well and use the left, right, left search pattern for approaching traffic.
- Never assume that you, as a pedestrian, have the right-of-way, even where the driver is required to yield. On heavily traveled streets, cross at corners where drivers expect pedestrians. Do not cross mid-block.
- Walk directly across the street; do not walk diagonally.

Traffic-control Devices

Take some time to review these suggestions with respect to traffic signals, signs and markings:

- Being in a crosswalk doesn't necessarily make drivers stop. As a pedestrian, remember to stop, look to the left, right left and over the shoulder for traffic and turning vehicles before crossing.
- Drivers expect pedestrians to be where crosswalks are marked. Use marked crosswalks and do not cross elsewhere. At locations with traffic signals without pedestrian lights, wait until your light is green, look left, right, left and over the shoulder for turning vehicles and cross when it is safe. Always be alert for drivers turning right on red and for drivers running a red light.



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- At traffic signals with pedestrian lights, wait until the Walk signal appears, then scan left, right, left and over the shoulder for turning vehicles.

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