

Crossing Intersections Safely: Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet

DID YOU KNOW?

Children’s ability to understand and make decisions about their safety changes as they grow and develop.

Students in Second and Third Grade:

- **Need supervision** as they learn more complicated safety skills
- **Can identify** safe crossings with help and practice
- **Can learn** how to identify traffic and stay focused while crossing the street with help and practice

This Week in School Your Child Learned...



How to cross intersections safely

1. **IDENTIFY** a safe place to cross. Find a crosswalk whenever possible. Take an adult’s hand.
2. **STOP** as soon as you reach the edge of an intersection or a driveway.
3. **LOOK** for pedestrian traffic signs and signals
4. **IDENTIFY** where cars may be coming from.
5. **OBEY** pedestrian signals. Only cross if the white “Walk” is on.
6. **LOOK AND LISTEN FOR TRAFFIC:** Look left-right-left, in front, and behind.
 - a. Touch your **chin to your shoulder** to make sure that you are looking as far as you can.
7. **CROSS** with the “Walk” signal, when no cars are coming in any directions.

Remember: Although you might be able to quickly determine it is safe to cross the road or intersections your child may not know or understand why it is safe. Help them understand and learn safe behaviors by practicing each time you cross at an intersection.

Crossing Intersections Safely:

PRACTICE AT HOME!

Safety Message: Children ages 7-8 can begin to learn more complicated pedestrian safety tasks. Even though they are older, they should always be with an adult while walking near or around traffic.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe intersection crossing skills with an adult. Remember that skills and knowledge do not always equal behavior. Make sure that your child is ready for the next step in learning how to safely cross intersections by practicing these skills at home!

- **Walk** around the neighborhood with your child, especially to destinations that they like such as a park, school, or a friend's house. Find a route that has intersections. See if you can find intersections that have a crosswalk and traffic signals for pedestrians.
- **Ask** your child to help identify an intersection. What is an intersection?
 - **An intersection is where two streets cross each other. This means that traffic can come in 4 different directions.**
- **Ask** your child to explain how to look left-right-left, front, and behind.
 - First look left. If there are no cars coming, look right. If there are no cars coming check left again. Make sure your **chin touches your shoulder, do the "shoulder check"**. (This helps with peripheral vision.)
 - Then if there are no cars, check behind you and in front of you. If there are still no cars, walk slowly into the intersection/driveway.
- **Ask** your child to explain who decides when it is safe to cross?
 - **Only the adult you are walking with can decide when it is safe.** You cannot rely on stoplights or pedestrian signals to make that decision.
- **Practice** crossing an intersection and then a driveway in your neighborhood.
 - Say the steps (left-right-left, front, and behind) out loud. Make sure your child can identify signals/signs and their meanings.
 - "Walk" signal is white and is the shape of a person walking.
 - "Don't Walk" signal is red and is the shape of a hand.
- **Repeat** the lessons every chance you get!

Looking at the picture, ask your child to identify how many directions the traffic could be coming.

Ask your child to explain the difference between the two traffic signals and what they mean. *The white "Walk" signal means it is your turn. The red "Don't Walk" signal means not to step into the intersection.*

