

Parking Lot Safety: 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 walk in parking lots safely

1. **PARKING LOTS** are places where people leave their cars, trucks or bicycles when they are not in use.
2. **WAIT** for an adult to tell you when it is safe to get out of the car.
3. **TAKE** the adult's hand and stay close to them.
4. **LOOK** left-right-left when leaving the parking space.
5. **STAY 3 STEPS AWAY** from car bumpers and tail lights.
6. **STAY CLOSE** to the adult at all times. They are more visible than children.
7. **WALK, DON'T RUN** when moving in parking lots.
8. **RE-ENTER** the car on the same side as the driver.
9. **FREEZE** if you drop something. Ask the adult to get it for you.

Remember: Although you might be able to quickly determine it is safe to cross the road or walk through parking lots, your child may not know or understand why it is safe. Help them understand and learn safe behaviors by practicing each time you walk through a parking lot.

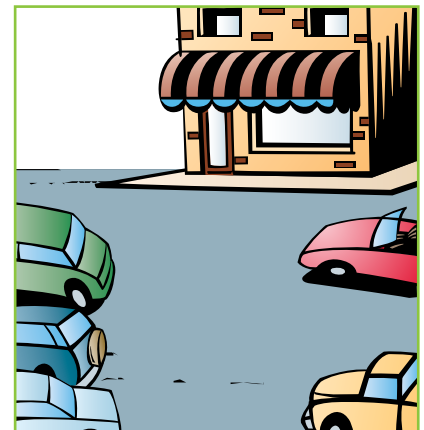
Parking Lot Safety:

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 in a parking lot.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe parking lot behavior 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 walk in parking lots by practicing these skills at home!

- **Ask** your child to describe a parking lot before you reach your destination.
 - **Parking lots are places where people leave their cars, trucks or bicycles when they are not in use.**
- **Ask** your child how to safely get out of the car.
 - **Wait for an adult to tell you when it is safe to get out of the car. Exit on the same side as the adult, if possible. Take their hand and stay close to them.**
- **Ask** your child how to safely move around parking lots.
 - Look left-right-left (chin to shoulder!) before leaving the parking space.
 - Keep 3 big steps away from car bumpers and tail lights.
 - Stay close to the adult at all times. They are taller and easier for drivers to see.
 - Always walk, never run through parking lots.
- **Ask** your child what to do if they drop something and it rolls away.
 - Tell the adult and ask them to get it for you.
- **Ask** your child how to safely re-enter the car.
 - Get in on the same side as the driver.
 - Scoot to your seat and buckle up.
- **Practice** and say the safe steps out loud.
- **Repeat** the lessons every chance you get!



Looking at the picture, ask your child to show where they should walk (on the sidewalk).

Ask your child where they should walk in relation to the cars (3 steps away from the cars).

Remind your child not to play in empty parking spaces.