

Crossing Intersections Safely: Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet

DID YOU KNOW?

Children develop the ability to understand and make decisions about their safety at different rates. The degree of supervision they require depends upon the capabilities of the individual child.

In general, students in fourth and fifth 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...



Steps for crossing intersections safely

1. **IDENTIFY** a safe place to cross. The safest place to cross is in a crosswalk at an intersection.
2. **STOP AT THE EDGE** of the intersection or the driveway.
3. **LOOK AND LISTEN** for traffic. Look left-right-left, in front and behind to make sure the intersection is clear.
4. **LOOK** for traffic signs and signals.
5. **ONLY YOU** can decide when it is safe to cross.
6. **CROSS** quickly and safely.
7. **BE PATIENT.** Wait until it is safe to cross.

Remember: Your child is starting to show that they understand what safe behavior is and why it is important. Help them reinforce safe pedestrian behaviors by practicing with them each time you walk near or around traffic.

Crossing Intersections Safely:

PRACTICE AT HOME!

Safety Message: Children ages 9-10 are still learning what it means to be safe. They should always be aware that they are setting an example for younger children while also proving to you that they will soon deserve independence.

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe intersection-crossing skills with an adult. As your child grows, revisit these safety issues often to make sure he or she is still practicing safe pedestrian behavior.

- **Walk** a route with your child that involves crossing an intersection with a traffic signal to a destination they like such as a park, school or a friend's home.
- **Ask** your child to explain how to look left-right-left, in front and behind.
 - First look left. If there are no cars coming, look right. If there are no cars coming check left again.
 - 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 identify traffic signals. What are the differences between the signal that is white and looks like a person walking and the signal with the red hand? What do the numbers mean?
 - The pedestrian signal has two phases. The white signal phase shows that it is the pedestrian's turn to walk. The solid or flashing red hand tells pedestrians that it is not safe to start walking into the intersection.
 - The numbers are counting down to show how many seconds the pedestrians have to cross.
- **Ask** your child what they should do if the red hand appears when they are in the middle of crossing.
 - Keep crossing. You will have enough time to cross. Do not turn around and go back.
- **Ask** your child to explain who decides when it is safe to cross.
 - Only you can decide when it is safe. Stoplights, pedestrian signals, crossing guards and adults are there to help keep us safe. You still need to keep your head up, looking and listening for traffic at all times to make sure you are safe.
- **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.

Looking at the picture, ask your child to identify how many directions the cars can be coming from.

Ask them to identify the traffic signals and explain what each phase means.

