



Children's Health
Education Center™

A member of Children's Hospital and Health System.



Southeast Wisconsin
LEAD AGENCY: CHILDREN'S
HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

To learn more about
keeping your family safe,
contact Safe Kids Southeast Wisconsin:
(414) 390-2178
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Pedestrian safety

*The most important steps your
child will ever learn.*

Very few children younger than age 10 can deal safely with traffic. Children cannot judge speed, distance or direction well and are easily distracted. Young children think if they can see a car, the car can see them.

Most kids are struck in streets or driveways near their homes when they:

- Run out between parked cars,
- Walk along the edge of the road, or
- Cross in the middle of the block or in front of a turning car.

Each year, more than 600 children ages 14 and under die as pedestrians. Tens of thousands more are badly hurt. Children ages 5 to 9 are at greatest risk. Protect your child by always modeling proper pedestrian behavior, and by following these safety tips.

Protect your child on the way

Never allow a child younger than 10 years old to cross streets alone.

Teach your child to:

- **Understand and obey traffic signals and signs.**
- **Cross at corners**, using traffic signals and cross walks.
- **Stop at the curb**, or at the edge of the road if there is no curb, before crossing the street.
- **Look left, right and left** again before crossing the street. Cross when the street is clear, and keep looking both ways while crossing.
- **Walk, don't run**, across the street.
- **Walk facing traffic**, on sidewalks or paths. Walk as far to the left as possible if there are no sidewalks.
- **Watch for cars** that are turning or backing up.
- **Try to make eye contact with drivers** before crossing in front of them. Tell your child that even though he or she can see the driver, the driver might not see them.
- **Always hold a grown-up's hand** in parking lots.
- **Wear bright clothing** in the daytime and retroreflective materials at dawn and dusk.



Protect your child while at play

- **Watch your child at all times.**
- **Make sure your child plays in safe places,** such as yards, parks and playgrounds – never in the street.
- **Fence off play areas** from the driveway and street.
- **Teach your child never to turn or dart out into a street** for a ball, pet or any other reason.
- **Check frequently for children playing** when backing out of a driveway or parking spot.

Protect your child around the bus

Teach your child to:

- **Be on time** to prevent running for the bus.
- **Wait for the bus on the sidewalk** and avoid horseplay.
- **Make sure the bus comes to a complete stop** before getting on and off.
- **Never walk behind the bus.** Always cross the street at least 10 feet in front of the bus and watch for cars. The driver has a blind spot of 10 feet around the bus where she cannot see your child.
- **Never reach under the bus** to get something. Ask the driver for help.
- **Hold the handrail** while getting on and off to avoid falling

