



Pedestrian Safety Transcript

Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian Safety is proudly brought to you by Children's Health Education Center with funding made possible by Kohl's Department Store.

Pedestrian safety

Taking an evening stroll with your family can be a great way to unwind together after a busy day. But soon your child will want to walk on his own to a friend's house, or walk the dog alone. How can you be sure he's safe?

Let's cover some important facts and then review what you can do to help protect your child from pedestrian-related accidents.

Do you know?

How many children sustain nonfatal pedestrian injuries each year?

- More than 3,900
- More than 39,000
- More than 390,000

Unfortunately, the actual number is higher than that. Each year more than 39,000 children sustain nonfatal pedestrian injuries.

That's right - each year more than 39,000 children sustain nonfatal pedestrian injuries.

Fortunately, the actual number is lower than that. Each year more than 39,000 children sustain nonfatal pedestrian injuries.



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Facts

Each year, approximately 630 child pedestrian fatalities occur.

Nearly 3 out of 4 pedestrian deaths involve a motor vehicle.

Between 1995 and 2005, the number of child pedestrian fatalities was cut in half.

Children under 10 years of age are unable to correctly gauge the speed of vehicles putting them at greater risk for injury and death.

4 out of 5 driveway-related incidents occur to children ages 4 and under.

For a comprehensive Fact Sheet, click on the Facts button.

What can I do?

As your child gains independence, she will inevitably want to start venturing out in your neighborhood. There are many things you can do and teach her to help her become a responsible pedestrian.

Do you know?

Pedestrian Safety is not applicable to babies and toddlers because they do not leave the driveway.

- True
- False

The correct answer is false. Babies and toddlers are pedestrians in their own driveways.

That's right! Babies and toddlers are pedestrians in their own driveways.



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Little "pedestrians"

Your child may be just a little tyke, but he is still a pedestrian in his own driveway. Car safety should be on your mind whenever he is playing outside.

If you have to move your car, it's best to ask another adult to watch your child.

If no one is available, walk completely around the car before moving it, and have your child in view at all times. Better yet, put your child in his car seat when you move your car. This may seem a little overly cautious, but it will definitely give you peace of mind.

Make sure your child is not left unattended in a car, as he can lock himself in, release a parking brake, or become caught in an automatic window.

Street safety

As a parent, it is up to you to prepare your child to be a responsible pedestrian.

Until the age of 10, your child should only cross the street with you or another trusted adult. Children under the age of 10 move quickly and unpredictably. They may not be aware of a potentially dangerous situation.

After you have modeled pedestrian safety with your child, and you feel he is ready, teach him to follow important safety rules.

Road rules

Stop before crossing the street.

Cross at the corner and use crosswalks if available.

Understand and obey traffic signs and signals.

Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.

Listen for cars you may not be able to see and stay alert!



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Using paths and sidewalks

It's always safest for your child to use paths and sidewalks when they are present.

If a sidewalk or pathway is not available, walk on the edge of the road, facing traffic.

Make sure you walk with your child to map out safe routes if he is ready to walk to school, friends' houses, or other destinations alone.

A safe route reduces the amount of exposure to traffic, is well lit and maintained, and is highly visible to other people.

Sidewalk dangers

Your child should be aware of some sidewalk hazards. Cars backing out of driveways often fail to look for pedestrians. Your child should be alert and stop for any cars crossing the walkway.

Also, if on a multi-use path, your child needs to stay aware and move over for other people on rollerblades, bikes, and other non-motorized vehicles.

Your child can be a safe pedestrian!

Letting your child gain his independence can be a smooth transition when you model how to be a responsible pedestrian, and teach him necessary road rules. Remember there is no magic age - you determine when he is ready to walk the talk.

Thank You

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