

MAKE EACH TRIP TO SCHOOL A SAFE ONE!

We all want to safeguard children as they travel to and from school. Here are some tips that can help keep them safe and healthy as they:

...Walk To and From School

- ◆ Discuss the safest route to and from school. Use the map to select your route.
- ◆ Teach children to stop, look and listen before crossing, even if the pedestrian signal shows the white figure walking.
- ◆ When crossing, children should walk, not run, and should keep scanning for turning vehicles while crossing.
- ◆ Encourage children to plan their route before the school year begins to become familiar with it. Talk about why it is safer to cross at school crosswalks. The ladder-striped school crosswalks make cross-walks more visible to drivers and help make the intersection safer.

...Go to the School Bus

- ◆ On the way to and from the bus stop, children are pedestrians. Discuss the safest route to take, and follow the pedestrian safety tips listed above.
- ◆ Encourage children to leave home early enough to avoid running to make the bus, and to wait for the bus on the side-walk, not in the street.
- ◆ Tell children about the danger zones all around the school bus. These areas are dangerous because children are hidden from the driver's view when they stand there.
- ◆ The safest way for children to cross the street after getting off the bus is to walk at least 10 steps away from the bus (on the sidewalk) before crossing. Tell children to be sure that they can see the bus driver's face before beginning to cross, and to avoid walking behind the bus or close to its wheels or sides.
- ◆ Explain to children that if they drop anything under or in front of the bus, they should tell the bus driver and not reach for it on their own.

As a driver...

- ◆ Comply with speed regulations. SCHOOL X-ING markings on the pavement and fluorescent yellow-green signs with children walking indicate school crosswalks. Be alert for children who may dart out into the street suddenly and be patient as you wait for them to cross safely.
- ◆ If you park opposite the school, cross the street with care. Stop at the curb, look left-right-left before crossing and keep looking as you cross. Set a good example for children by being a safe pedestrian as well as a safe driver.
- ◆ Double parking, stopping on crosswalks, or interfering with school buses when you drop off or pick up your child can add to traffic congestion around the school. It can also block visibility for children walking to school and other drivers. When drivers and pedestrians cannot see each other, there is an increased risk for collision.

Encourage Parents, Teachers and Students to share the road safely wherever and whenever driving and walking on the city streets!



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