

# Tips for Walking Safely to School

Walking is a great way to have fun and stay healthy.

Make sure that you are a safe walker by following these important tips!

## Where to Walk

Always walk on the sidewalk when available, rather than in the street. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the street, walk so you are facing the cars and can see traffic coming! Stay out of parking lots and be careful near driveways! These are places where drivers of cars are not usually looking for kids. Pay attention when you are walking. Assume that drivers can't see you.

## Crossing the Street



1. The safest place to cross the street is in a marked crosswalk or at the intersections, not in the middle of the block.
2. Walk, don't run. Obey traffic signals.
3. Stop at the curb or the edge of the street. Look for turning vehicles and listen for cars. If there are cars approaching, make sure the driver sees you and stops before you step into the street.
4. Look left, look right, look left again, behind you and in front of you for traffic before crossing a street or stepping into traffic.
5. Look across all lanes of traffic and make sure all lanes are clear before crossing.

## See and Be Seen

It is important that everyone can see you and you see them, especially when crossing the street! Wear bright colors or reflectors so that you are visible. If you are walking when it is dark, consider using a flashlight.

## Walk with Friends - It's Safer

Walking in groups not only helps drivers see you better, it is a fun and healthy way to spend time together with your family or friends. You can walk to school with friends in your neighborhood by starting a "Walking School Bus". It is a great way to stay safe and be seen on your walk to school.

## Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Always pay attention to what is going on around you, it'll help you stay safe and you'll probably see some cool things you wouldn't normally notice too! Watch for ice, water, bike riders, or any hazards in your path.



## Have Fun!

Walking is a fun way to get outside with your friends and family, take advantage of every opportunity you get to walk and you'll be happy and healthy for life!