

# SAFETY TIPS



- Learn the pedestrian safety rules.
- Teach your child to Stop, Look and Listen while crossing the street.
- Instruct your child to only cross at intersections with traffic signals, marked crosswalks or stop signs.
- Always cross with your child, until you feel your child is able to cross unsupervised.
- Plan a safe route to school and walk it with them until they know it.
- Teach your child to stay on sidewalks. Where there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Instruct your child when crossing the road, to use their eyes before walking. Also, to make eye contact with drivers and to look both ways before they cross.
- Dress your child in bright colours and reflective items to be bright and more visible to drivers.

In case of emergency call 911 immediately.

For information or to find settlement services near you, visit [www.settlement.org](http://www.settlement.org)

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# Be safe

## PREVENTION

### What you can do



All parents want to protect their children. In a new country where the rules of the road may be different, learning the pedestrian safety rules is important. This street safety information will help you protect your children and teach them to become safe pedestrians.

#### Why are children at risk?

Children are more vulnerable to pedestrian injuries and deaths. They are smaller with less developed senses of hearing, vision and judgement.

As a result they are not always able to determine from which direction car horns or car engine sounds are coming. They also have difficulty judging how fast vehicles are travelling.

Most pedestrian injuries with children occur when they are crossing the street, or when they run into the street while playing. Fortunately, there are many steps you can take to protect your child.



Begin to teach your child street safety early. Explain to your toddler that cars belong on the road and people belong on sidewalks.

#### Start early

Teach them to Stop, Look and Listen before they cross. Instruct your child to only cross at intersections with traffic signals, marked crosswalks or stop signs. Explain that they are never to run into the road after a ball or any other object.

Set a good example and obey the pedestrian rules yourself. Remember that children learn by observing. By watching you follow the rules, your child will learn them also.



Until you feel your child is able to cross the street unsupervised you or an adult caregiver should cross with them. Dress your child in bright colours and reflective items so they can be seen by drivers.



#### Know the rules

As your child gets older continue to teach them pedestrian safety. Plan a safe route to school and walk with them until they know it.

Identify all the places that could be dangerous (for example, train tracks, busy intersections or areas where cars travel at fast speeds).

Teach your child to always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, instruct them to walk facing traffic and to walk as far away from the street or roadside as possible.

When they are crossing the road, teach them to wait until all traffic stops. At intersections with lights, tell them to wait for the picture of the person walking. Make sure they use their eyes and look carefully before they walk. Also tell them to make eye contact with drivers. Then before they cross, instruct them, to look to the left, to the right and to the left again at all intersections.

