

# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY



Everyday millions of children take to the streets to get to and from school. They walk, ride their bicycles, take buses and arrive in automobiles. For many children this experience is a new one, and they may not understand safety rules. Young children do not have the same concept of safety as adults do. They may not look before they leap, which is why it is so important for parents to supervise young children and practice safety skills with their older children. The safety tips listed here will help parents prepare children for a safer journey.

## Vehicle Safety For Parents

- ✓ While driving be more aware of the speed limits in your neighborhoods.
- ✓ Observe the sidelines of the roadway for children walking and biking.
- ✓ Give children right of way in crosswalks and school zones.
- ✓ Avoid backing up your vehicle at schools.
- ✓ Children should exit the right side of the vehicle.
- ✓ Do not leave until your child is completely on school property.

## Walking To School

- ✓ Parents should walk or bike the route prior to school for any possible hazards the child may encounter and a safe place to go if they need help.
- ✓ Stop, look and listen before crossing the street, always cross at the crosswalk and obey traffic signals.
- ✓ Walk or bike with a friend. It is safer and more fun with a Buddy.
- ✓ Go directly to school and directly home after school.
- ✓ Do not play in vacant fields or lots.
- ✓ Stay on the sidewalk or bike path and do not take short cuts.
- ✓ If someone approaches you or makes you feel uncomfortable, don't talk to them and keep walking.
- ✓ If a vehicle is following you, turn around and go the other direction.
- ✓ Don't put your name on clothing, backpacks or books that are visible to others.
- ✓ If approached by a dog do not run. Do not touch the dog, stand still and tell the dog to go home. If the dog will not leave, slowly back from the dog putting distance between him and you then continue walking.



### **Biking To School**

- ✓ Bright colored clothing will make you more visible to drivers.
- ✓ Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- ✓ Backpacks should be tight on the upper back and not dragging on the rear tire.
- ✓ Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- ✓ Ride on the right, in the same direction as traffic.
- ✓ Use appropriate hand signals.

### **Bus Stops**

- ✓ Know your bus number.
- ✓ Stay in a group while waiting for the bus.
- ✓ Do not play in the street; stay on the sidewalk or grass.
- ✓ Wait for the bus to completely stop before approaching it.
- ✓ Look both ways before crossing a street to board the bus.
- ✓ Stay seated while on the bus and keep hands, feet and heads inside the windows.
- ✓ If you are offered a ride, say NO.
- ✓ A parent could be at the bus stop before and after school for extra safety.

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