

# Safety Tips for Walking to School

## A Guide for Parents

- Teach your child how to cross the street.
- Ensure your child has identification and emergency numbers in their backpacks.
- Practice with your child. Choose the safest route to school with the least amount of crossings.
- Practice what each street sign means on the route to school.
- Observe what it is like to cross at the eye level of your child.
- Walk where there is good visibility for your child to see traffic and to be sure the drivers can see your child.
- Don't let your child walk alone until you feel they are ready.
- Pre-identify places of refuge should your child need immediate shelter.



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## Safety Tips for Kids

- Cross at a cross walk and follow the instructions of the crossing guard or the walk/don't walk signal while preparing to cross the street.
- Always look left, right, left before crossing.
- Always wait until there is no oncoming traffic before crossing.
- Walk, don't run across the street.
- Wear bright colored clothes with reflective tape.
- Don't walk while using ear buds, texting, or doing anything else that may prevent you from hearing traffic or distract your attention.
- Pay close attention to your surroundings.
- Always walk with a buddy.
- Avoid using secluded shortcuts.
- If a car stops to ask for directions or for help finding a lost pet, never approach the vehicle.
- Never take rides from strangers, or even people you know, without permission from your parents.
- If someone calls out to you, approaches you, or makes you feel uncomfortable, quickly get to the nearest adult you trust and tell them what happened.

