

Much like any other safety message regarding children, parents take the ownership for rehearsing the safe behavior. The time to teach pedestrian safety is before the rush of returning school. Daily walks are great opportunities to practice and explain to children about distractions that many drivers encounter, including pedestrians who do not know the rules of the road or pedestrians that are distracted by media.

The National Safety Council has published tips for safety as a pedestrian. These tips are great for starting the conversation.

Be Safe!



## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Many children walk to and from school, and it's crucial that they understand that safety practices for walking are just as important as those for riding on a school bus or in a car. Unintentional pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of death in the United States for children ages 5 to 14, according to data presented on [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org). To prevent pedestrian injuries, children can follow some simple guidelines:

- Always cross streets at corners where there are traffic signals and designated crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- Always look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- Be aware of cars that are turning or backing up.
- Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Wear retroreflective materials to make sure that you can be seen.



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