

A Message for Parents

Below are some myths that children believe about being a pedestrian.
Make sure your child knows the facts.
Adapted from NHTSA

Myth A green light means that it is safe to cross.

Fact A green light means that you may stop and search for cars. Before you step off the curb, look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT, and if it is safe to do so, cross and keep looking left and right as you do so. Be alert for vehicles making a right turn on red.

Myth You are safe in a crosswalk.

Fact You may cross at a crosswalk, but before you do, you must stop at the curb. Look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT for cars. When it is clear, cross and keep looking left and right.

Myth If you see the driver, the driver sees you.

Fact The driver may not see you. Make certain the driver sees you and stops before you cross in front of the car. Try to make eye contact with the driver.

Myth The driver will stop if you are in a crosswalk or at a green light.

Fact The driver may not see you. The driver's view may be blocked. The driver may run a traffic light illegally. The driver may turn without looking for pedestrians.

Myth Wearing white at night makes you visible to drivers.

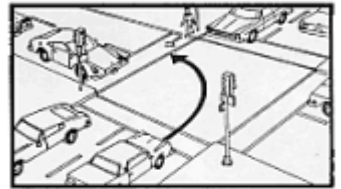
Fact Even if you and your child wear white clothes, drivers will have a difficult time seeing you at night.

- Carry a flashlight.
- Wear reflective clothing & other reflective items
- Walk facing traffic.

Common Crash Situations



Child darting out into street at corner or mid-block



Vehicle turning into path of child



Child hidden by ice cream truck



Child hidden by bus and driver does not stop



Vehicle backing up in roadway, driveway, or parking lot

Remember, when crossing a street your child should always:

- Stop at the edge of parked cars, the curb, or other vehicles.
- Look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT for moving cars.
- Cross when clear, and keep looking left and right.
- Walk, not run or dart, into the street.
- Look for signs that a car is about to move (rear lights, exhaust smoke, sound of motor, wheels turning).
- Walk alertly