

SAFETY ALERT FOR PARENTS

Question — Where are your children at greatest risk for accidents and injuries during their daily trip to school?

Answer — While they walk to and from (and are at) the bus stop, and this risk applies equally to children who walk to school.

You can reduce the risk:

Teach your children these basic rules that apply whether they ride the bus or walk to school:

- Walk — don't run
- Don't cross the street between parked cars
- Cross streets only at designated crossings — and wait for traffic to stop before crossing

If your children ride the bus, teach them these additional safety rules:

- In the morning at the bus stop — stand at least 3 steps back from the curb while waiting for the bus
- In the afternoons at the bus stop — get off the bus, take at least 3 steps away and wait until the bus has left before walking home
- Never go in front of or behind the school bus - in Europe, traffic is not required to stop for loading/unloading school buses, so you must make sure your children know that fact

Finally, a couple of other things that you can do:

- Make sure your children leave on time, with enough time to walk to the bus stop or school safely at their pace — late usually means rushing which can cause accidents
- Put reflective tape or devices on your children's outer clothing and book bags — European winters are dark, making it vital that children can be seen