

*Dear Parents,*

Now that school is back in session it is important to review pedestrian safety with your children. Take a few minutes to make sure you and your children are following these seven steps to crossing the street safely:

1. Cross the street at a crosswalk. Drivers expect pedestrians to cross at the designated crosswalk areas. Jaywalking is not only illegal, but the cause of many accidents as well.
2. Hold hands with your child in and around any crosswalks. Children are impulsive and cannot perceive the speed and distance of approaching cars. By holding their hand you are taking control ensuring that you all cross at the same and safe time.
3. Look both ways (left, right, and then left again) before you decide to cross. It is important to continue to look to either side of you while crossing the street in case a driver does not spot you crossing.
4. Make eye contact with drivers before stepping into the crosswalk. By making eye contact you can more accurately read the driver's intention, whether it is to stop or speed through the crosswalk.
5. Wear bright clothing at dusk when it is beginning to become dark. More than 50% of car accidents involving pedestrians occur between 6pm and midnight. Avoid not being seen by wearing an eye catching color that will alert drivers of your presence on the road.
6. Always walk your bike across the street. Walking gives you more control of your movements and the whereabouts of your children.
7. Avoid cell phones, music, and other other distracting devices when approaching a crosswalk. Your mind should only be on one thing: crossing safely.

Take some time to discuss these guidelines for crosswalk safety with your children. It is crucial for them to understand the dangers of crossing the street and how to avoid them.

Thank you,  
Abby Green  
(Girl Scout, Age 16)

