

HOW TO TRAVEL SAFELY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Review these basic safety rules with your children:

General

- Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies.
- Teach your kids to never talk to or accept rides from strangers. When approached by a stranger or dangerous situation children should always think “No, Go, Yell, Tell.”

School Bus

- Wait on the curb for the bus to stop before approaching the bus door.
- Do not move around on the bus.
- Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street when getting on or off a bus.
- Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.

Car

- When in a car or vehicle, everyone must “buckle up” Older kids must be in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little ones in child safety seats.
- All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of vehicles.
- Many accidents and crashes occur while new teen drivers are going to and from school. Set limits on the number of teen passengers and do not allow your teen to drive while eating, drinking, or talking on a cell phone to prevent driver distraction.

Bike

- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic and use appropriate hand signals.
- Obey the “rules of the road” - traffic lights and stop signs.
- Wear brightly colored clothing to increase visibility.
- Never listen to music while biking – it is important to hear horns and other sounds.

Walking to School

- Be realistic about your child’s pedestrian skills and whether they are ready to walk to school without adult supervision.
- Parents and kids together need to map out the best route to take to school, and have the child always take the same route. Children should tell parents if they are making any stops..
- Make sure your child’s walk to school is a safe route – avoid vacant lots and locations with few people around. Visit local police stations and/or check on-line “Registry” predator lists. Check to see if your school utilizes well-trained adult crossing guards at major school intersections.
- Identify other kids for your child to walk to school with, as there is safety in numbers.
- Have kids wear brightly colored clothing to increase visibility.

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