



Back to School Safety

PATHWAYS to INJURY PREVENTION

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Help keep your children safe from unintentional injuries - *the number one killer of kids* - by teaching them safe ways to travel to and from school. Pedestrian injuries are a leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 5 to 14, and the back-to-school seasons provides a great opportunity to teach kids common sense safety behavior.

RIDING THE BUS

School buses are nearly 8 times safer than passenger vehicles. But children must take care when boarding or leaving the bus. While an average of 7 school-age passengers are killed in school bus crashes each year, 19 are killed getting on and off the bus.



- it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's okay to approach. Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do. Protect yourself and watch out!

WALKING AND BIKING TO SCHOOL

Even if you don't ride in a motor vehicle, you still have to protect yourself. Because of minimal supervision, young pedestrians face a wide variety of decisions making situations and dangers while walking to and from school. Here are a few basic safety tips to follow:

Teach your Child These Safety Steps:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until

Did You Know?

- Young children do not see traffic in the same way as adults and do not yet have a fully developed sensory perception. This makes it hard for children to perceive how fast a vehicle is approaching and how fast they should react
- 60% of childhood bicycle related deaths occur on rural roads
- 90% of children do not wear helmets- Helmets reduce Head Injury by 85%
- More school-age pedestrians are killed in the afternoon than in the morning, with 36% of the fatalities occurring in crashes between 3p.m. - 4 p.m.

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- Mind all traffic signals and/or the crossing guard -- never cross the street against a light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk with a buddy. Wear reflective material... it makes you more visible to street traffic.

RIDING IN A CAR

- You might have heard before that most traffic crashes occur close to home ... they do.
- Safety belts are the best form of protection passengers have in the event of a crash. They can lower your risk of injury by 45%.
- You are four times more likely to be seriously injured or killed if ejected from the vehicle in a crash.
- Everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, young kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats.

Very Few Children Under age 10 can Deal Safely with Traffic

Children cannot judge speed, distance or direction well and easily distracted. Young children think if they can see a car, the car can see them.

AS A DRIVER

- Be aware that California law requires you to stop for pedestrians in a marked crosswalk or an intersection with no marked crosswalk,



where there are no traffic control signals present.

- Follow all posted speed limits. When children are present near schools, the speed limit is usually lower than that of surrounding roadways. In residential areas, be alert for children who may be playing near the street. Children often dart out from between parked cars or shrubbery.
- Be extra careful around school buses. When red lights are flashing you must stop. Wait a few extra minutes after the bus is gone to make sure there are no children present.
- Pedestrians may not be able to cross quickly or hear you approaching. Give older adults plenty of time to cross the street.
- Be alert when turning corners. If the car in front of you stops at a corner, be prepared for the possibility of pedestrians crossing.
- Pedestrian injuries can be prevented. Take care to be a defensive pedestrian and a pedestrian-alert driver.

As a Safety-Smart Student, I promise to always:

1. Buckle my safety Belt on every trip.
2. Wear a bike helmet every time I ride my bike.
3. Stop, look left, right, and left again before I cross the street.
4. Wear a life jacket when I'm on a boat or around water.
5. Wear light, bright colors and reflective markers so I can be seen in the dark.
6. Stay 10 giant steps away from the



street when I'm waiting for a bus.

7. Stand facing forward and hold the handrail when I'm on an escalator.
8. Stay out of the back of pick-up trucks.
9. Stop, Look and Listen before I cross railroad tracks and never play on or near the tracks.

As A Safety-Smart Parent, I promise to set a good example for my children by making sure that:

1. Everyone in my vehicle wears a safety belt or is in a child safety seat at all times.
2. All family members wear bike helmets when biking.
3. My children know to Stop, look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
4. Everyone in my family wears a life jacket when boating or around water.
5. We wear light, bright colors and reflective markers to be seen in the dark.
6. My children know to stop, look and listen before crossing railroad tracks and never to play on or near the tracks.
7. We always stand facing forward and hold the handrail when riding on an escalator.
8. My children know never to ride in the back of a pick-up truck.

