

Safety on the Street

Learning simple safety rules will help your child:

- Become aware of her surroundings
- Stay safe when you are outside the house
- Learn boundaries both inside and outside

Ideas to try with your child:

- Practice crossing a non-busy street with your child. Look both ways, hold hands, and cross together. Use the “Poem for Crossing the Street” and act out the steps.
- Teach your child not chase toys into the street, and instead wait for an adult to help.
- Take hold of your child’s hand while in parking lots, at the store, when crossing the street or in any other public places.
- Talk about where the boundaries are around the house, like the end of the sidewalk or driveway. Tell your child she may not cross the boundaries without an adult. Make sure to explain why!

Poem for Crossing the Street

Stop, look, and listen,
Before you cross the street,
Use your eyes,
Use your ears,
And then you use your feet.

If your child is struggling:

- Play “Freeze”: Have your child stop whatever she is doing when she hears you yell out “Freeze!” Practicing this can help when out in public if your child runs away or is about to enter an unsafe place.
- Remind your child often, “I need to hold your hand so you can be safe.”
- Keep your child with you when in stores or at the mall and let her know that she must stay with you at all times.

Going further:

- Go on a walk with your child. Have her tell you the rules for crossing the street when you get to the intersection.
- Play “Red Light, Green Light”: When you say green light, your child walks towards you, when you say yellow light she walks slowly, and when you say red light she freezes.
- Books to check out:
[I Can Be Safe: A First Look at Safety](#) by Pat Thomas;
[Kristofur Kitty: Crossing the Street](#) by Jennifer D. Hartmann; [Look Left, Look Right. Look Left Again](#) by Ginger Pate.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Begin to learn safety rules for the child’s daily activities.” *Growing Up Healthy: Ages-3-4 years*, pg. 61