



CHILDREN AND BIKE SAFETY

Teach children who bike to school to:

- Stop and look left, right and left again and listen before entering or crossing the street
- Ride on the right side of the road with traffic, not against traffic
- Use correct hand signals
- Follow traffic signs, signals
- Stop at all intersections, marked and unmarked

Parents and Teachers Should Remember:

- Young children under the age of about ten have very poor peripheral vision. They may “see” a hazard approaching from the side but not register it as a danger.
- Children are often restless and impatient. They have trouble waiting for things like traffic lights or cars heading in their direction. They tend to focus intently on one thing at a time for brief periods and have short attention spans. For example, a child intent on following her friend and not being left behind can ride out in front of a car without looking.
- Children have trouble determining the direction and source of sounds. Traffic noises and sirens may confuse them.
- Children have difficulty judging the speed and distance of oncoming vehicles.
- Most children lack a sense of danger. They do not understand that a car may seriously hurt or kill them. Children think that grownups will look out for them. They believe that if they can see an adult driving a car toward them, the driver must be able to see them too.
- Most children are unable to understand a complex chain of events or the idea of cause and effect. Be clear and direct when talking about safety. Use “Do” and “Don’t” rather than giving lots of rationale.
- Children often mix fantasy with reality. They may give themselves superhuman powers and do not understand that a moving vehicle can hurt them.

