Children and Crossing the Road

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Abstract

Children need to learn to use the roads safely. Road safety is essential for children’s freedom, development and exercise. When walking near a road it is a good idea to: 1. Hold your child’s hand. 2. Don’t let them run ahead. 3. Look out for and encourage your child to be aware of hidden entrances or driveways crossing the pavement. 4. Put reins on a younger child if they’re not strapped in a pushchair. 5. Make sure your child walks on the side of the pavement away from the traffic. 6. Never let your child goes near a road alone or even with an older child. 7. Explain that pedestrians have to wait on the pavement until all the traffic coming from both directions has stopped - only then is it safe to cross. 8. Tell your child not to cross where they can’t see far along the road. 9. Explain that they should not try to cross a road between parked cars; drivers won’t be able to see them very well and the cars might start moving. 10. Warn your child to watch for cyclists or motorcyclists who might not have seen them. 11. Make sure your child can be seen easily, for example bright or fluorescent clothes are best during the day and reflective materials work well at night. Children are generally not ready to cross roads on their own until they are at least eight years old and many will not be ready even then.

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