

## School Safety

What children do in school is important, but getting to school is important, too! Use these tips to help your child get to and from school in the safest way possible!

### Important points for families:

- Call the school if your child is going to be absent.
- Make sure the school has numbers where you can be contacted.
- Teach your child how to call 911 emergencies and explain when and for what it should be used.
  - Teach your child your cell number or where you work
  - Post your cell number, work number, and make sure your child knows where to find them.
- Arrange with friends and family to provide emergency backup if you are going to be late picking up your child.
  - Let your child know who are your emergency contacts.
  - Teach your child a secret code word that he will recognize.
  - If a stranger asks your child to come with them, all the child has to do is ask for the "code word". If the person doesn't know the correct word, your child will know that you didn't send that person.

### You can help your child get to school safely by discussing the following:

- If your child will be walking to school, tell him to:
  - Always walk with friends
  - Stay on the sidewalk and NO shortcuts
  - Cross the street safely
  - Follow the instructions of the crossing guard and school safety patrol
- If your child rides a bike, be sure to tell her to:
  - Always wear a helmet and wear it correctly
  - Wear bright or light-colored clothing
  - Wear reflective marker in the early morning
  - Stay on the bike path
  - Listen to the crossing guard and to the safety patrol



### If you drive your child to school:

- Buckle up! Most accidents occur within ten miles of home.
- Children weighing 40-80 pounds should be in a belt-positioning booster seat.
  - Have your child sit in the back seat to protect her from injury from airbag deployment. Even a minor accident can make an airbag deploy, and children under the age of 12 can be seriously injured by the airbag.



- Don't let your child wear his backpack in the car.
  - When children wear their backpacks on their back, they are not receiving the proper head support in case of an accident.

**If your child rides the bus, tell your child to:**

- Sit quietly in her seat so she can hear the driver.
- Not put any of his arms or legs outside the window.
- Remain in his seat until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Stay away from the curb, while she waits for her bus.
  - Not roughhouse at the bus stop.



**Show and talk with your child about the following situations:**

- What if...Someone asks for directions and wants you to get into his car or to come closer.
- What if... Someone asks for help looking for a lost pet.
- What if ...Someone asks to take your picture for a TV ad and invites you into his house or apartment.
- What if... Someone says your mother is sick and they are going to take you to the hospital to see her. links for more parent friendly information

**Websites for additional resources**

Bicycle safety (Safe Kids Pennsylvania)

<http://www.pasafekids.org/bicycleSafety.php>

Bus safety for children (Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles)

[http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/schoolbus\\_manual/SBActivityBooklet.pdf](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/schoolbus_manual/SBActivityBooklet.pdf)

Car seat Safety (Safe Kids Pennsylvania)

[http://www.pasafekids.org/documents/ChildRestraintUse\\_ENG\\_RackCard\\_001.pdf](http://www.pasafekids.org/documents/ChildRestraintUse_ENG_RackCard_001.pdf)

General safety tips (Safe Kids Pennsylvania)

<http://www.pasafekids.org/documents/SafeKidsWalkThisWay.pdf>

Playground safety (Safe Kids Pennsylvania)

<http://www.pasafekids.org/documents/PlaygroundSafetyTipSheet.pdf>

School safety (National Crime Prevention Council)

[http://www.ncpc.org/topics/school-safety/copy\\_of\\_school-safety](http://www.ncpc.org/topics/school-safety/copy_of_school-safety)

School safety for children (McGruff the Crime Dog)

<http://www.mcgruff.org>

Walking safely (Safe Kids Pennsylvania)

<http://www.pasafekids.org/documents/SafeKidsWalkThisWay.pdf>

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