



Sidewalk Smarts

A Passport To Independent Travel

Sidewalk Smarts introduces complex road safety concepts to students regarding use of sidewalks for those who walk, scoot, roller blade, skateboard, or use wheelchairs or other mobility devices.

Using this checklist

Children reach road readiness at different ages. Parents can use this checklist as a tool to gauge and track their child's walking skill development. Check off key knowledge and skills as your child shows they can explain them, can do them sometimes, and will do them all the time.

Sidewalks and Trails	Explains	Can do	Always does
Walk on the sidewalk, even if it is only on one side of the road			
Walk on the inner 3/4 of the sidewalk			
Walk on the road facing traffic when there are no sidewalks			
Walk to the right of a trail to allow faster pedestrians and cyclists to pass			
Traffic Lights	Explains	Can do	Always does
Stop and look left, right, left, AND behind before starting to cross			
Make eye contact with drivers			
Do not start crossing if the orange hand is flashing			
If the orange hand starts flashing while crossing, continue at a quick but safe pace			
Keep looking and listening while crossing			
Stop Signs	Explains	Can do	Always does
At 4-way stops, ensure vehicles on all four sides have stopped			
At 1- and 2-way stops, ensure vehicles with stop signs have stopped. Yields to all other vehicles			
Make eye contact with drivers			
Keep looking and listening while crossing			
Pedestrian Refuge Islands	Explains	Can do	Always does
From side of road, make sure cars coming from the left are stopped before crossing			
From concrete island, make sure cars coming from the right are stopped before crossing			
Make intention to cross very clear (step onto platform, hold out arm and point if necessary)			
If travelling with a group, do not cross until there is enough room on the island			
Keep looking and listening while crossing			
Pedestrian Crossovers	Explains	Can do	Always does
Stand on platform prepared to cross			
Push button if there is one			
Wait for cars to stop behind "shark's teeth" or yield line in both directions			
Keep looking and listening while crossing			

Roundabouts Note: pedestrian crossovers are at all roundabouts	Explains	Can do	Always does
Stand on platform prepared to cross			
Never cross a roundabout by walking over the central island			
Wait for cars to stop behind "shark's teeth" or for an adequate gap in traffic			
If there is a concrete island, stop and make sure cars from the right are stopped before crossing			
Keep looking and listening while crossing			
Midblock Crossings Note: cross at intersections whenever possible	Explains	Can do	Always does
Move to a spot where you can see better (no objects like bushes or snow piles are in the way)			
Move to a spot where you can be seen better by drivers and cyclists (understand how curves and objects block a driver's view)			
Look for space on the other side of road before starting to cross			
Check parked cars thoroughly for brake lights or drivers indicating expected vehicle movement			
Move around parked cars carefully (use large spaces between cars only and poke head out to look both ways before crossing)			
Find an adequate gap in traffic (enough time between cars to cross without running)			
Keep looking and listening while crossing			
Rail Tracks (Train and LRT)	Explains	Can do	Always does
Wait for trains blocking the crossing (do not try to go around or between train cars)			
Obey warning lights and stop arms			
Stay out of tunnels meant for trains			
Do not walk along or beside the tracks			
Look carefully because electric trains are very quiet			
Parking Lot Entrances	Explains	Can do	Always does
Look into the parking lot, across the road, and look both ways on the road before crossing			
Wait for an adequate gap (enough time to cross without running)			
Stay visible by walking upright (make yourself big!) and walk steady			
Keep looking and listening while crossing			

Ask your child about these key lessons	Ask your child what to wear
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- I stop, look listen, and think
- I keep looking and listening as I cross
- I make a decision for myself
- I make my intentions known to others
- I don't push or shove near traffic
- I pay attention to what is going on around me

- Bright colours to be seen by others
- Weather-appropriate clothing and footwear
- Properly tied shoes (or velcro is secure)
- Hood or hat that does not block vision
- No cell phones, ear buds, or headphones during travel

