

The Facts

- In Virginia, pedestrian/motor vehicle crashes represent 10% of all traffic deaths each year.
- Children ages 5-14 are at greatest risk for injury and death.
- Children under the age of 10 should not cross the street alone.
- Young children should always practice pedestrian safety skills with an adult.
- Teach pedestrian safety by being a good example!

Walk Smart, Virginia!



Programs educating parents, children and motorists can be effective in reducing deaths and injuries to children.

For more information on pedestrian safety please contact:

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Center for Injury and Violence Prevention
1-800-732-8333
www.vahealth.org/civp

Walk Smart, Virginia!

Pedestrian Safety



Walk Smart

Parents should teach children to:

- Learn and obey traffic signals and signs.
- Cross the street at corners using traffic signals and crosswalks, never run out between parked cars or in the middle of the block.
- Always look LEFT, RIGHT and LEFT again before crossing the street.
- Walk on the sidewalk, when possible.
- Walk facing traffic.
- Always watch for cars.
- Wear bright clothing.
- Hold hands with an adult in parking lots.
- Be alert!

Children under the age of 10 need adult supervision around traffic because:

- They have difficulty judging speed and distance.
- They have limited peripheral vision.
- They have no perception of risk or danger.
- They are small and are not seen well by motorists.
- They are easily distracted.



Play Smart

Parents should teach children to:

- Play in safe places away from the street.
- Play away from the driveway.
- Never run out in the street for any reason.
- Be alert!

Bus Smart

Parents should:

- Walk young children to the bus stop.
- Arrive five minutes before the bus comes so you do not have to rush.
- Secure loose drawstrings or shoelaces that may get caught on the hand rail or door.

Children should:

- Stand at least 10 feet or 5 giant steps from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Get on only when the bus is completely stopped.
- Always hold the handrail getting on and off the bus.
- Get on and off the bus without pushing.
- Cross the street 10 feet in front of the bus, keeping eye contact with the driver.
- Tell the bus driver if something drops by the bus, never bend down near or under the bus.
- Be Alert!

