



Educator guide: Street smarts lesson

Recommended for grades:

3rd and 4th grades

Time:

9 minutes

National Health Education Standards:

This lesson aligns with the following National Health Education Standards:

- Standard 1: Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.

For more information about the National Health Education Standards, visit the SHAPE America website: shapeamerica.org.

Learning objectives:

After completing this lesson students will be able to:

1. Explain why it's important to cross roads with an adult until at least the age of 10.
2. Identify what a pedestrian is.
3. Identify what a crosswalk is.
4. Describe how to safely cross a street.
5. Explain how traffic signals (stoplights and stop signs) make it safer for pedestrians to cross a street.

Lesson description:

In this video-based lesson students will learn how to safely cross the street, and why it's important to cross with an adult until the age of 10. They will also learn how traffic signals can make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street.



Pre and post-test questions:

Use the following questions with your students in any way that you see fit (on paper, using a survey tool, etc.) You may choose to combine questions from various lessons and activities that your students participate in. Correct answer choices are bolded.

1. What is a pedestrian?
 - A. A person driving a car
 - B. A person who is walking**
 - C. A person who is riding a bike

2. Before crossing the street you should stop, look, listen and make eye contact with drivers in stopped vehicles.
 - A. True**
 - B. False

3. Which of these is true about a crosswalk?
 - A. A crosswalk shows pedestrians where to cross the street.**
 - B. A crosswalk is a place in the street to stop and talk with your friends.
 - C. A crosswalk is a marked lane in the street for motorcycles to drive in.

4. How do traffic signals, like stoplights and stop signs, make it safer to cross the street?
 - A. They tell drivers when there is a biker in the bike lane.
 - B. They tell drivers when to stop so you can safely cross.**
 - C. They tell drivers what the speed limit is.

5. Choose the three reasons why it's important to cross the street with an adult until at least age 10.
 - A. Your brain can't tell how fast cars the cars are going.**
 - B. You're not fast enough to get across the street.
 - C. It's hard to tell how far away a car really is.**
 - D. You're shorter than most cars, so they might not see you.**

Vocabulary:

Use the following list of vocabulary as a reference for yourself and your students as you complete the Street smarts lesson. You may choose to use this list in any way that fits your needs.

- Crossing guard - a person whose job is to help pedestrians cross intersections safely
- Crosswalk - a place designated for pedestrians to cross the road
- Intersection - where two or more streets cross
- Median - a place for pedestrians to wait halfway through crossing until the pedestrian walk signal comes on again
- Pedestrian - a person who is walking, or a person with disabilities traveling in a wheelchair or a mobility device
- Pedestrian signals - signals at intersections that direct pedestrians when to cross the street
- Stoplight - a traffic signal that typically has three lights (red, yellow and green) that tell drivers when to go (green), use caution (yellow) or stop (red)
- Stop sign - a traffic signal that tells drivers to stop
- Traffic signals - things like stoplights and stop signs that tell drivers when to stop, which then makes it safer for pedestrians to cross the street

Supplemental activity: Pedestrian safety activity sheet

Objectives:

After completing this activity students will be able to:

- Describe how to safely cross the street.

Materials needed:

- Pedestrian safety activity sheet (on the following page)

Time required:

20 minutes

Instructions:

Take some time to review with students what they learned during the lesson. Discuss ways to be safe while crossing the street.

Next, give each student a copy of the Pedestrian safety activity sheet, which can be found on the following page. You will also see a link to this activity sheet below the Street smarts lesson online. This could be assigned as homework if you are short on time in the classroom.

Pedestrian safety activity sheet

Safe Kids
Walk This WaySM

SAFE
KIDS
SOUTHEAST
WISCONSIN

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Pedestrian Safety Activity Sheet

1. Fill in the blanks.

When crossing a street, look _____, then _____, then _____ again.

2. Circle the words in the list in the word find grid.

crosswalk
pedestrian
left
right
sidewalk
playground
walk
visible
signal
stop
foot
safe
traffic
car
reflective

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Pedestrian safety activity sheet answer key

Safe Kids
Walk This Way

SAFE
KIDS
SOUTHEAST
WISCONSIN

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Pedestrian Safety Activity Sheet

1. Fill in the blanks.

When crossing a street, look left, then right, then left again.

2. Circle the words in the list in the word find grid.

crosswalk
pedestrian
left
right
sidewalk
playground
walk
visible
signal
stop
foot
safe
traffic
car
reflective

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| T | A | T | A | N | A | I | R | G | H | T | A | T | D | D | |
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| A | S | I | A | E | A | L | J | E | A | I | S | A | W | J | S |
| F | S | H | M | A | R | G | A | W | T | S | B | F | A | M | T |
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Handouts

Included on the following pages are additional resources that you and your students' families may find useful.



Pedestrian safety resources for families and educators

Safe Kids WI, <https://www.safekidswi.org/Resources/Pedestrian-Safety>

Safe Kids Worldwide, <https://www.safekids.org/walkingsafelytips>

Safe Routes to School, <https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/safe-routes-school>

WI Department of Transportation Safety,
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/education/pedestrian/default.aspx>

US DOT, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA),
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety>



Transcript

Slide 1

Welcome to Street Smarts! In this lesson you will learn what a crosswalk is, how to safely cross the street, and why it's important to cross with an adult. There's lots to learn, so let's get started!

Slide 2

How old did you say you are? Wait, you're how old? Did you know that kids under the age of 10 should only cross the street with an adult? What? You did know that? But do you know why? Here are the reasons we need an adult with us.

1. Your brain is still growing and learning how to process, and it hasn't yet learned to tell how fast cars are going, or how fast they're coming towards you.
2. It's hard for a kid to tell how far away a car really is. Is the car far enough away to safely cross? And,
3. Let's face it, you're shorter than most cars making it harder for drivers to see you.

Slide 3

What in the world is a crosswalk? A crosswalk shows where a pedestrian can cross the street. Psst...a pedestrian is a person that's walking. Most of you know a crosswalk by the white lines painted in the road, but crosswalks can be found anywhere two corners meet. Sometimes they have lines, but sometimes they don't. Sometimes they even have signal lights or a friendly crossing guard to help us cross safely. They're probably going to look different in different communities. This is a crosswalk. There's another one and this one too. Here a crosswalk, there crosswalk, everywhere a crosswalk.

Slide 4

So, why do we want to cross at the crosswalk? Is it because this is where the chicken crosses the road to get to the other side? Uh, no, it's because this is where drivers are expecting to see us and they're usually going slower or even stopping. Actually, at crosswalks pedestrians have the right of way. This means drivers are supposed to stop and allow pedestrians to go first. It's the law. But we have to be careful. Just because we have the right of way doesn't always mean that drivers are paying attention, or see us.

Slide 5

Let's talk about how to choose where it's safer to cross. We never want to cross in the middle of the road. There's no stoplights or stop signs to slow the traffic down. There might even be cars parked along the side of the road that will hide us from the driver's view. Instead, we should always find a safe place to cross. We should pick a crosswalk without much traffic and where there's something to slow traffic down, like a stop sign.

Let's review how to cross the road safely. You're welcome to bring your chicken along with you. Ahem. To safely cross, you need to:

1. Stop at the edge of the sidewalk in front of the crosswalk, making sure you are stopped far enough away from the road that you don't trip and fall into the road.
2. Look left, right, and left again for cars.
3. Look to see if cars are coming from the street behind or in front of you, that might be trying to turn onto the street you want to cross.
4. Listen for any sirens or fast car sounds that might tell you that a car is coming, even though you don't see it yet.
5. Look at the drivers in the cars who are stopped at the intersection. Try to make eye contact with them to know that they see you.

That's a lot to do all at one time, isn't it? Kind of like trying to pat your head and rub your stomach while chewing gum and flossing your teeth at the same time. That is too much to think about right now. So, that's why you need your adult to walk with you. They can make sure it's safe for you to cross.

After you and your adult have done all the looking, listening, and checking, and it's safe to cross, walk quickly across the street, staying in the crosswalk lines, if there are any, and still looking around at the traffic as you go. Keep your head up and don't run.

Slide 6

Remember how I said traffic signals can help us to cross safely? Let's go over how they work. Well, not work, like with light bulbs and electricity, but work like sending messages about what to do. Stoplights and stop signs tell the cars and trucks what to do, such as slow down or stop. Picking a crosswalk where there are stoplights or stop signs tells you that the traffic will need to come to a stop, giving you a turn to cross.

The pedestrian signals are for us, to tell us what to do when crossing the road. These signals tell us when it's our turn to go. These signals tell us we need to wait, it's not our turn. And these tell us our turn to walk is almost over, so if we haven't started yet, we should patiently wait until it's our turn again or we might get caught in traffic.

Even if it's your turn to go, stop, look and listen to make sure the coast is clear.



Slide 7

Just because it's your turn doesn't mean that the drivers are paying attention or can see you. If you see a car coming, even though you have the right of way, you're better off waiting until these bozos go through so they don't run you over. And never walk out in front of a moving car. Just because you have the right of way and it's supposed to stop. Those crosswalks are not force fields to stop cars. Even though you have the right of way, always use your safe pedestrian skills of looking and listening and use caution

Slide 8

Sometimes we may have to cross the road with many lanes of traffic and we may not have enough time to cross all the way. Then we need to use a median or a pedestrian oasis. These are made for pedestrians to safely wait halfway through crossing until the pedestrian walk signal comes on again. Here's another tricky kind of crosswalk, sometimes you might find a crosswalk in the middle of the road instead of at corners where they usually are. You need to be extra cautious when crossing at these crosswalks, as there's nothing slowing traffic down. Use these crosswalks only with extreme caution and make sure your adult is with you.

If traffic doesn't stop and allow you to cross, this is a good indication that it's not a safe place to cross and you should find a safer route, like going to the closest corner or intersection with stoplights or stop signs for the cars to stop.

So what do you suppose we should do when we're at a crosswalk without pedestrian signals or at a crosswalk without any lines painted? Well, duh. Same as the other crosswalks, we have to use those five steps to make sure it's safe to cross, and don't forget your adult to cross with you until you are 10.

Slide 9

Good job! You've learned how to cross the street safely. Now it's your job to remember to do it every time. Stay safe!



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