



TEACHING YOUR KIDS TRAFFIC SAFETY

TEACH BY EXAMPLE

Model correct street crossing and bike riding behavior. You never know when a child is watching you! Practice what you teach at ALL times.

TEACH BY EXPLAINING

Explain to your child the safe way to cross. Be specific "When I cross a street. I always stop at the curb. I look for cars. I look left for any traffic coming, then I look right for traffic, then I look left again. When it is clear, I cross the street."

GRANT INDEPENDENCE IN SMALL STEPS

Let your child progress from playing in front of the house to playing on the block, to walking around the block, to crossing the street.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD

As you both safely cross the street together, praise the child for copying your safe actions and words.

FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD

Ask your children to repeat rules back to you. Once your child knows the rules, let your child lead you in traffic. Set up situations in which you shadow your child (10-15 feet behind him).

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Materials used from nhtsa.org and City of Madison, WI



Safe Routes to Schools

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Safe Routes to Schools Alameda County is an effort coordinated by the Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC), Alameda County Public Health Department, and Cycles of Change.

For more information about starting a SR2S program in your school, contact us:

Safe Routes to Schools Alameda County

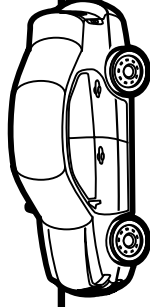
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CHILDREN IN TRAFFIC A PARENT'S TRAFFIC SAFETY GUIDE



SEEING TRAFFIC AS A CHILD

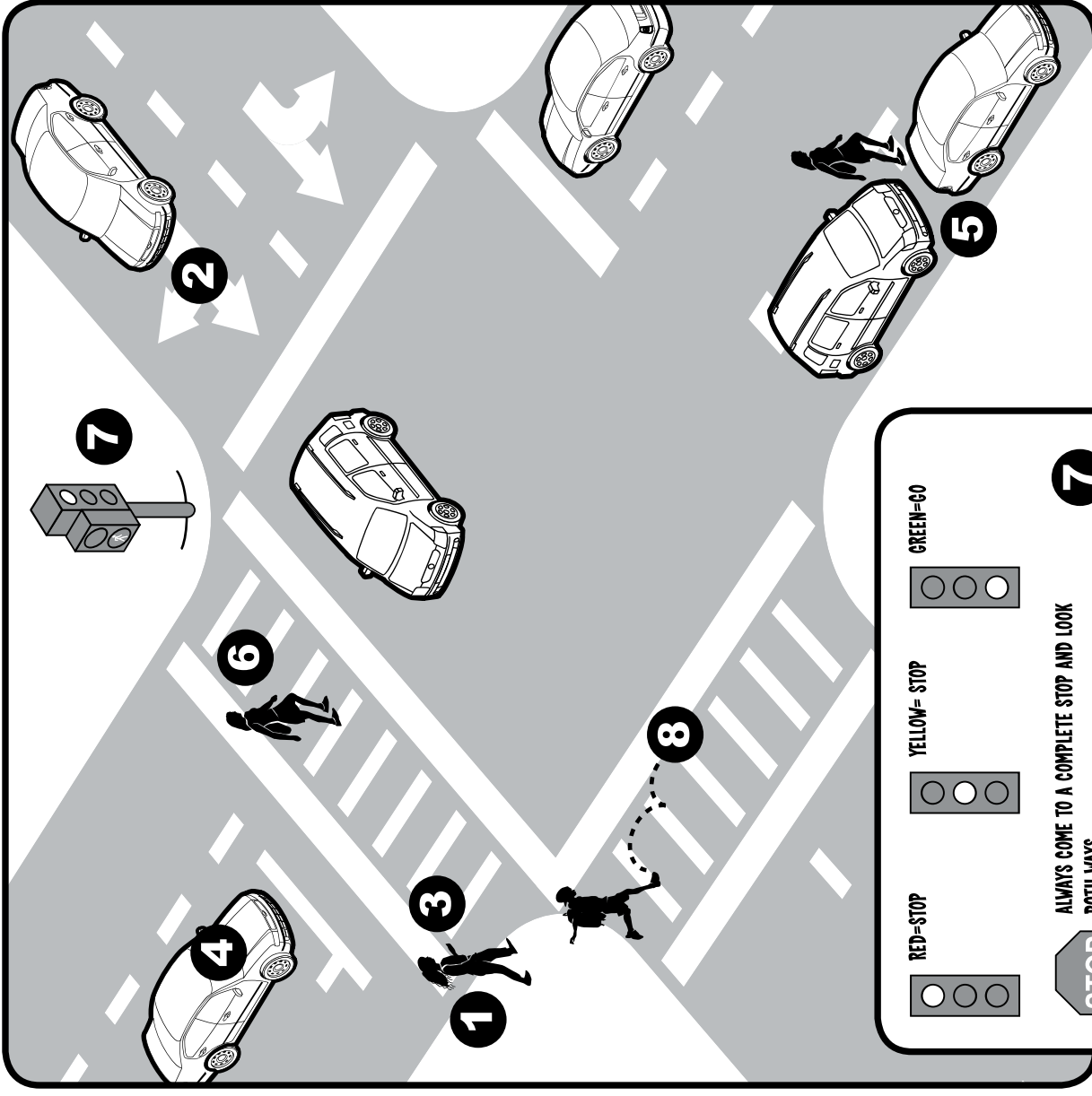
- I have 1/3 narrower field of vision.
- I have trouble judging distances and the speed of cars. I can not readily tell the direction a sound is coming from.
- It is hard for me to see over parked cars and hard for drivers to see me.

THINKING ABOUT TRAFFIC AS A CHILD

- I may be impulsive and impatient and have a limited sense of danger.
- I concentrate on one thing at a time. This is not likely to be traffic.
- I imitate the (often bad) behavior of others, especially older children and adults.

USE THESE TIPS TO JUDGE YOUR CHILD'S ABILITIES TO WALK ON HIS/HER OWN.

- 1** Does your child know where the edge is? Do they stop at it EVERY time?
- 2** Does your child know which direction the traffic comes from? Can they locate traffic by listening? Can they tell when a car is slowing down, speeding up or turning?
- 3** Do they look left, right, left and behind them before crossing?
- 4** Can your child make eye contact with the driver? Do they know when it is safe to step in front of the vehicle?
- 5** Crossing at a corner is the safest. If you must cross in the middle of the street between parked cars, do your kids go to a place where they can see up and down the street? Do they remember steps 1-4?
- 6** Do they continue to look while crossing the street? Do they walk and not run across the street? Are they using the crosswalk when available?
- 7** Do they know what traffic signals mean? Do they know to look LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT even if the light is green?
- 8** Is your child impulsive? Are they easily distracted? Will they remember to stop, look and listen EVERY TIME?



	RED=STOP		YELLOW= STOP		GREEN=GO
	ALWAYS COME TO A COMPLETE STOP AND LOOK BOTH WAYS.				7
	START CROSSING THE STREET		FINISH CROSSING IF YOU HAVE BEGUN		DON'T CROSS