

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

In Pasco County, our Early Children program ensures that teachers present students and parents with critical information on pedestrian Safety. Many children walk to and from school, and it's crucial that they understand that safety practices for walking are just as important as those for riding on a school bus or in a car. Unintentional pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of death in the United States for children ages 5 to 14, according to data presented on www.safekids.org.

To prevent pedestrian injuries, children can follow some simple guidelines:

- *Always cross streets at corners where there are traffic signals and designated crosswalks.
- *Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- *Always walk on sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- *Always look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- *Be aware of cars that are turning or backing up.
- *Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Parents...you can also help your child to be safe by...

- *Teaching your child at an early age to look left, right and left before crossing the street. Then remind them to continue looking until safely across.
- *Teaching your child to put phones, headphones, and other devices down when crossing the street. It is particularly important to reinforce the message with teenagers.
- *Teaching your child that it's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- *Teaching your child that children under 10 need to cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, most kids are unable to judge the speed and distance of oncoming cars until 10.

*Be a good role model. Set a good example by putting your phone, headphones and devices down when walking around cars.

If children will follow simple guidelines when walking, we can decrease the number of injuries that take place yearly. If you get a chance, ask your child's teacher about Pedestrian Safety. Please find the time to practice the mentioned guidelines with your child. Let's put safety first!