

Activities for Pedestrian Safety Education

A. General Activities

1. Invite each grade level or classroom to write a safety cheer that incorporates pedestrian safety messages and perform it at the school assembly.
2. Recruit the upper grade levels to write a skit about pedestrian safety and perform it at the event.
3. Ask each classroom to make posters including the rules for pedestrian safety. Display these at the event.
4. Set up a display of shoes to highlight the number of child pedestrian fatalities each year or month
 - a. Each year, approximately 626 child pedestrian fatalities occur. This is roughly 52 children per month.
 - b. Contact your local thrift store to donate pairs of shoes for your display or cut shoes out of construction paper to hang on a bulletin board.

B. Pedestrian Safety Stations

Mock Street Scene Activities

1. Design mock streets in the hallways with intersections using yellow tape. As the children walk the hallways they must obey the rules of the road. Some children could wear special T-shirts or clothing to portray themselves as vehicles.
2. Set up mock streets in the playground, basketball court or gymnasium. Children in the lower grades ride big wheels with bike helmets and act as vehicles in traffic. A crossing guard can stop them to let the children cross in a mock intersection.
3. Draw a line with chalk or lay a string on the sidewalk to show the child the inside edge of the sidewalk and the outside edge of the sidewalk. Explain to the child that they should always walk on the inside edge closest to the grass or houses.
4. If a working red light can be obtained from public works, it could be set up to simulate different traffic/pedestrian scenarios. Other street signs (i.e. stop, yield) can be borrowed or created to enhance role plays.
5. Paint a bird's-eye view of a block of a town on an 8' X 10' tarp. Children in a classroom situation can use this to practice safe pedestrian behaviors.

6. Use a collapsible school bus toy (sold at many toy stores) to help children practice making eye contact with the child "driver" inside before taking five giant steps and crossing the street. Make a cloth cover for the bus and paint it to look like a city bus. Talk about waiting to cross until the city bus passes. Children may not differentiate between school & city buses.

The Pledge

Children trace their footprint and write their pledge to be a safe pedestrian. The completed footprints can be displayed at the school assembly or carried during the walk to school.

Put On The Brakes

Take the children to an area where they can form a single file line. This is the starting line. Have the children start running at the sound of the whistle. After the children get up to their maximum running speed, sound the whistle again. Explain to them ahead of time that when the whistle sounds the second time they need to "put on their brakes." After the activity, sit them down and explain to them that, like kids, cars cannot stop immediately. Kids' brains hear the message to stop, but their feet take longer. As with cars, the brakes give the message to stop, but the tires cannot stop immediately.

Driver's Eye

A FedEx truck, school bus, or vehicle is parked in a large open area. Carefully place objects in different areas surrounding the truck, making sure that some will not be visible from the driver's seat. Suggested objects include wagons, cutouts of a person, shopping carts, etc. Have the children sit in the truck where the driver normally sits to see how far pedestrians or other objects must be from the truck in order to be seen by the driver.

Foggy Vision

Cut wax paper into 8 ½-inch-by-11-inch pieces and have the children hold them up to their faces. Have the children pretend that the wax paper is fog or rain, and explain that fog and/or rain is dangerous. Neither drivers nor pedestrians see well in fog or rain.

Group Games

1. Play "Simon Says" with a safety-related theme.
2. Play "Red Light-Green Light" to emphasize the importance of obeying signals.

