Best Route to School

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Protect your child by selecting the safest route between home and school. Pick out the best one. Then, go over the directions with your youngster. Explain why you chose the route that you did and what your child can do to avoid danger.

AAA’s traffic safety experts have developed the following rules to help keep your child safe. Take a few minutes now to go over them.

Remember, the same rules apply no matter where your child goes: to school, a bus stop, playground or even a friend’s house.

Rules for Safeguarding Your Child

1. **Walk On Sidewalks:** Watch out for cars pulling into, and backing out of, driveways.
2. **Walk On the Left Facing Traffic If There Are No Sidewalks:** Staying to the left allows you to watch oncoming traffic and to get out of the way if necessary.
3. **Cross Only At Corners:** Avoid the dangerous practice of “jaywalking.” Cross at an intersection controlled by a traffic light wherever possible.
4. **Stop And Look All Ways Before Crossing:** If there’s no traffic light, wait until oncoming cars are at least a block away before crossing. A car may still be able to stop if it’s closer, but children are often badly frightened by “near” accidents.
5. **Watch For Turning Cars:** Children sometimes forget to look and unintentionally walk into the side of a turning vehicle.
6. **Continue To Look Left, Right and Left Again As You Cross:** It’s easy to miss an oncoming car.
7. **Avoid Crossing Between Parked Cars:** It’s almost impossible for drivers to see youngsters who enter the roadway from between parked cars.
8. **Play Away From Traffic:** Playgrounds, schoolyards and your own backyard are the safest places to play.
9. **Be Especially Alert In Bad Weather:** Rain, snow, fog and even umbrellas can obstruct vision. Also, drivers may be unable to stop quickly. Children should wear brightly colored and retro-reflective clothing.
10. **Obey Police Officers, Adult Crossing Guards, AAA Safety Patrol Members, and Traffic Signals:** These “safety guardians” can greatly enhance a child’s safety when going to and from school.

This message to parents/guardians is one additional step which the school, in cooperation with the local AAA affiliate, is taking to prevent accidents among school children.

Reply To Teacher

Before returning this statement to school, please detach and retain Rules for Safeguarding Your Child. Parents/Guardians should sign this statement and have your child return it promptly.

I have walked over the **Best Route To School** with my child, using the suggestions offered and have also discussed the rules governing safe walking practices.

Signature of Parent/Guardian ___________________________________________ Date ____________________________

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