

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKSHOPS

SPRING 2022

Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Safe Routes to School

For Use in Bike
& Pedestrian
Safety
Presentations

Grades: K-5



Outline

This script was written for use by presenters from the National Cycling Center & Safe Kids of the NW Piedmont to use during presentations in Winston-Salem & Forsyth County Schools.

Introduction:

(5 minutes)

- What is transportation?
 - ★ Commute mode types
 - ★ What it means to be a pedestrian
- Pedestrian Safety Toolbox
- Pedestrian Safety Rhyme

Walking Buddies:

(5 minutes)

- Who are our walking buddies?
- Where can we walk with our walking buddies?

Traffic Signs and Signals:

(5 - 10 minutes)

- Review images of signs and signals and discuss meaning
 - ★ Materials: Posters or PowerPoint images of signs

Safe Street Crossing Video:

(6 minutes)

- Where to cross the street
- Stop, look, and listen
- Intersections
 - ★ Material: Video

Safe Street Crossing Discussion:

(7 minutes)

- Review video concepts
- Looking both ways exercise
- Driveways
- Parking lots
- Eye contact and visibility

Simon Says:

(3 minutes)

Closing:

(5 minutes)

- Pedestrian Safety Toolbox
- Pedestrian Safety Rhyme



Script

Introduction:

(5 minutes)

Hello, my name is [PRESENTER NAME] and I am here to talk to you about transportation. Before I begin, I want to go over the rules with you. We will follow the same rules that you follow here in your classroom.

- Follow instructions
- Do not call out - be sure to raise your hand if you have something to share or a question
- Keep your bodies calm and hands to yourself.

I will not be giving any warnings because you don't need any. If someone is not following the rules, I will ask that person to move. Thumbs up if you can agree to these rules.

Transportation. That is a big word. Who can tell me what it means? Transportation is how to get from one place to another. What are some examples of transportation that you use? (Show images). Walking, biking, cars, boats, buses, vans, trains, etc. Today we will be focusing on walking as transportation.

Who can tell me what it means to be a pedestrian? A person who is walking or using a wheelchair. Has anyone been a pedestrian today? Yes, we are all pedestrians at some point every day. Even if your parents drop you off at school, you walk in to your classroom, right?

Now that we know what it means to be a pedestrian, let's talk about why we walk. Who can give me reasons? (Show images) Good exercise, good for the environment, fun, less traffic, etc.

- 1 Today we are first going to talk about safe walking!
- 2 Second, we are going watch a short video.
- 3 Third, we are going to discuss what we watched in the video.
- 4 Fourth, if we have enough time, we are going to play a game to make sure that we understand what we learned in the video, so pay close attention!

So, before we start talking about safe transportation, I want to make sure everyone brought their pedestrian safety toolbox! Did everyone bring it? Of course we did, you always have your pedestrian safety toolbox with you. Your toolbox is magic because we put our eyes, ears, and brains in them. We will need to use everything in our toolbox (Point to eyes, ears, and head) to help us be safe pedestrians.

To help us remember what is in our toolbox, we have a pedestrian safety rhyme. I will say each line and then you repeat after me:

Stop every time at the edge of the street

Use your head before your feet

Be sure to listen for every sound

Look left, look right, look all around

Great! Now let's do the rhyme again, but in whisper voices. Remember to repeat after me.

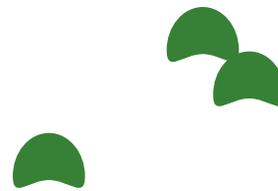
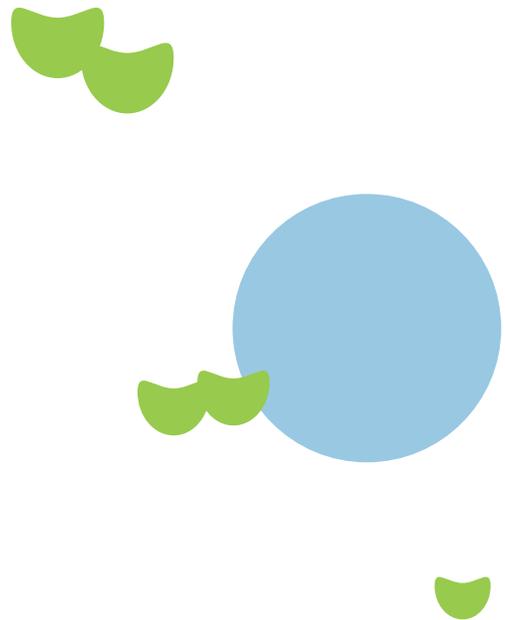
Now let's do it one more time as fast as we can.

Walking Buddies:

(5 minutes)

Now that we know what is in our toolboxes we are ready to start talking about safe transportation.

- Did you know that in 3rd grade is when most students are allowed to walk to school on their own?
- How many of you walk to school on your own? (raise your hands).
- For those of you who don't walk to school alone you should get yourself a walking buddy!
- Who is a "walking buddy"? Walking buddies are parents, older siblings, older friends, family members, or neighbors.
- If students can't walk to school, what are the reasons? (*too far away, parents have to work*)
- Will students be able to walk to school on their own when they get older? (*yes*)
- Who can name some other places students can walk and bike besides to school? (*park, friends' houses, etc*)



Traffic Signs and Signals:

(5 - 10 minutes)

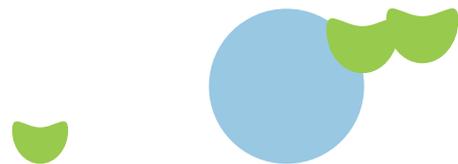
Next, we are going to look at some of the items we will see when we are walking with our walking buddies. I will hold up a sign and, if you know what the picture means, raise your hand.

- **Crosswalk:** This tells pedestrians where we are supposed to cross the street and tells drivers to expect people walking there. Do we still need to pay attention when we walk in a crosswalk? Yes, drivers still may not see us or may not be looking for us.
- **Stop sign:** This tells drivers to stop their vehicles. Do drivers always stop at stop signs? No, sometimes they do not so we should wait to make sure they see us before we cross the street in front of a car approaching a stop sign.
- **Yield sign:** What does yield mean? A driver will need to slow down, but does not have to completely stop the car. This means we have to be extra careful because drivers may not decide to slow down very much.
- **Traffic lights:** What do the different colors mean? Red means stop, yellow means slow down because the light is about to change, and green means go.
- **Pedestrian crossing sign:** This tells drivers that pedestrians will be crossing the street at this location.

→ **Countdown signal:** Has anyone ever seen one of these at an intersection? What does the person mean? It means we are allowed to cross the street. Does it mean we can just walk right into the street without looking? No, we should still look to make sure all cars are stopped because, as we just talked about, not all drivers may be looking for us.

- ★ What does the red hand mean? It means we should not start crossing the street.
- ★ What happens if we are already crossing the street? It means we should finish our crossing quickly because the light is going to change soon, but we should not run. Sometimes these signals have numbers to tell us how much longer we have before the light is going to change.

→ **Crossing guard:** Do you have a crossing guard at your school? What is their role? Yes, they will help us get across the street safely. We should always pick locations to cross where there is a crossing guard instead of crossing on our own.



Safe Street Crossing Video:

(6 minutes)

Now we are going to watch a video about how to be safe pedestrians. Try to notice when the people in the video are using their toolboxes and where you see the signs we just looked at.

[youtube.com/watch?v=bQVcdaW2TuY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQVcdaW2TuY)

(Note: If video doesn't play, skip ahead for a summary of each of the video's tips)

Safe Street Crossing Discussion:

(7 minutes)

Raise your hand if you learned something new in the video. What did you learn?

When did the kids in the video use their pedestrian safety toolboxes? After they stopped at the edge of the curb they looked left, right, left, behind them, and in front of them. They used their ears to listen for cars. They used their brains to decide when it is safe to cross the street.

→ **Why do we look left if we already looked left once before?** Cars move fast and by the time we look to the right there might already be another one coming.

We are going to do a quick activity to practice looking for cars. Let's all together look left, now right, now left again. On this next one we are going to look behind us and I want you all without saying anything to notice what color car [teacher] is holding up. Okay, let's look behind us and now in front of us. On the count of three, say what color the car was. I wanted you to look at the car so you know that you

have to turn all the way around to see the cars on the road coming.

There are other places we need to be looking for cars coming besides when we are crossing the street. What are those? These are not in the video!

→ **Driveways and parking lots.** When we walk on the sidewalk by houses, there could be cars backing out of their driveways or pulling into their driveways. When they do this they cross the sidewalk so we need to treat driveway crossing the same as if we were crossing the street. We will need to do what? Stop, look, and listen.

→ **In parking lots there are many cars traveling in all different directions.** Just like parked cars in driveways, before we walk by the parked cars, we need to look at the cars and see if there are drivers in them. If there are, we shouldn't walk in front of them because they could begin driving at any moment. We should also listen for the cars to see if they are on. If they are running, we shouldn't walk either. Some cars don't make noise when they are running, but most of them do.

Sometimes cars stop so we can cross the street. It's ok to cross if the cars are stopped for us, but we want to make eye contact with drivers (show what eye contact is). This will make sure that they see us so they don't start to drive when we are walking in the street. We also want to make eye contact with drivers because many people might be distracted while they're driving. They might be talking on their phone, changing a song on their radio, taking a sip of really hot coffee... Have any of you ever seen a driver do this? I know I have. Making eye contact with the driver will make sure that they see you.

Always remember that only YOU decide when it is safe to cross. If for any reason it seems unsafe, don't cross. If a driver stops for you and you don't think it is safe, step back from the crosswalk, wave the driver on, and wait until you are certain that it is safe to cross.

Simon Says:

(3 minutes)

Simon Says:

Look left, look right, look left/right/left, look in front, look behind, make eye contact with me, make eye contact with your neighbor.

Closing:

(5 minutes)

You all have done such a great job today learning how to be safe pedestrians! Before we go, let's do our pedestrian safety rhyme

one more time to remember what is in our toolboxes.

Stop every time at the edge of the street

Use your head before your feet

Be sure to listen for every sound

Look left, look right, look all around

Make sure you practice using what you learned today every time you walk and teach your friends, families, and walking buddies what you learned, too. Now, let's give each other a big round of applause. You all did a great job at learning how to be safe pedestrians today.

