WALK & ROLL

safe routes to school in santa clara county

As part of the Safe Routes to School program at your school, kindergarten and second grade students received a classroom presentation on how to safely cross the street. In 2010, 22,350 children were injured nationally while crossing the street. The National Safe Kids Campaign says that children under 10 years of age aren't developmentally ready to judge speed and distance of approaching cars.

To keep your child safe, turn over for important tips ▶

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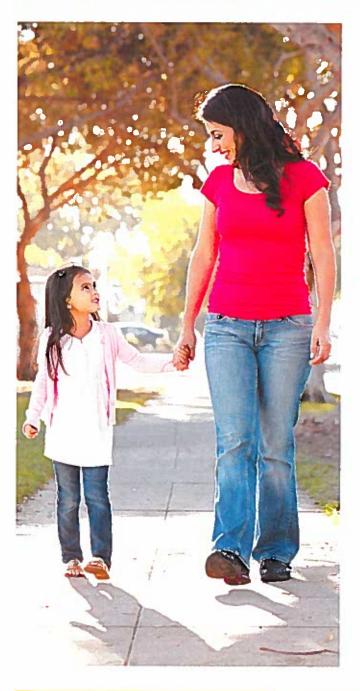PUBLIC
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What should we do to help our children safely walk in our neighborhoods and get safely to school?

- Make sure that children 10 years and younger always cross the street with an adult.
  (Use your judgment—if your child is older than 10 and you feel he/she isn't ready to cross independently, then continue to make sure your child is supervised when crossing.)

- Before crossing the street, children need to stop, look and listen. Then, when crossing the street, remind children to look left, right and left again.

- Always cross at a corner. Obey signs and signals and if possible, cross within the lines of the crosswalk.

- Walk on the sidewalk. If your route has no sidewalks, walk on the side of the road facing traffic.

- Try to make eye contact with the driver.

- Teach children to watch for cars that are turning or backing up.

- Teach young children to ask for help if a ball or other item goes into the street. Don't cross between 2 cars. Drivers may not be able to see a child when darting out between parked cars.

- Consider joining or starting a walking school group/walking school bus. This allows groups of children to be supervised by an adult on their way to school.

- Always have your child get out of the car on the right side (curb side) of the car.

PARENTS: Ask your son or daughter what he/she learned in school today about being a safe pedestrian. And remember, be a good role model!

For more information call Traffic Safe Communities Network at **408.793.2700**, or visit the Public Health Department website at: **www.sccphd.org/traffic**