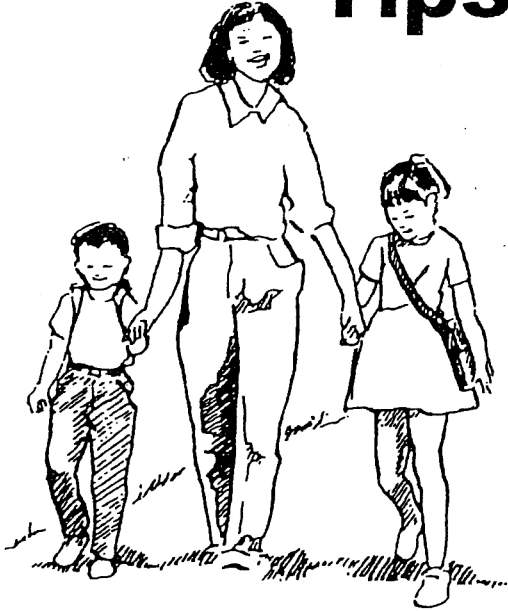


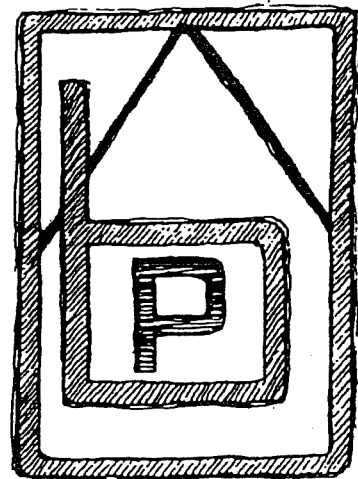
# Tips to Parents



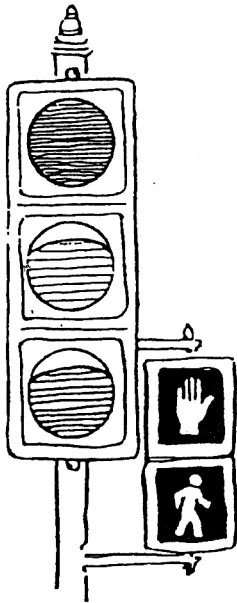
The following are suggestions to parents that may better assure that their children will have a safe trip to school.

## WALKING TO SCHOOL

1. For the first few days, walk your children to school along the safe route suggested by the school. It directs children to cross busy streets where there is the protection of school crossing signs, traffic signals or a school crossing guard.
2. Walk with your children even if you would normally drive them since there may be a time when you are ill and your children have to walk alone.
3. Cross only at corners. Your children will follow the route that you teach them. Set a safe example for them.
4. Tell your children to take the same route every day. It will be easier to find them if they are late coming home from school or do not arrive at school.
5. Point out any potential hazards such as driveways, alleys and railroad tracks along the route and tell your children what to look for and what action to take.
6. Point out houses with Block Parent signs along the route. Tell your children they can go to a Block Parent in an emergency (such as being approached by a stranger).
7. When crossing the street, let your children tell you when it's safe to cross. Have them make the decision and get the practice doing it. You will see if they are able to make good judgments and how much more teaching they will need.



8. At any street, make sure that your children stop at the curb (most children are hit when they run into the roadway). Make sure they look to their left and right but also ahead and behind them for turning cars. Show them where to look and what to look for. If something is coming, have them wait until it passes and then look all ways again. **Be patient!**
9. Teach your children to **walk** across the street. If they run, they may not see approaching vehicles and will not have time to correct any mistake they might have made.
10. Have your children keep looking for traffic as they cross.
11. When a parked car blocks your children's view, teach them to look all ways. If it's safe, walk out only far enough to see past the parked vehicle and then look all ways again. Remember, your neight and view is different than theirs.



12. At a traffic signal, teach your children to look only at the "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs that are directly across the street from them on the street they want to cross. The many lights on the corner can be confusing to them. Red and green are only for drivers. Teach them about the "Walk", the flashing "Don't Walk", and the steady "Don't Walk" signals.

13. "Walk" means start crossing but only if it's safe. Teach your children where to look for cars. They must check for cars going through the red light, check for cars that may be turning (right, left or right on red) and only then start crossing the street.

14. Children view adults as helpful and as people that would not hurt them. They are not aware that adults make mistakes. Warn them that drivers do make mistakes and can go through red lights. Ask them if they have ever seen cars with dents in them or an accident which can reinforce your teaching.

15. Teach your children how they can tell a car will turn and what the turn signal means.

16. Cars turning right on red can be a problem if the driver is not looking in the direction that the children are coming from. Tell your children that they should make sure that the driver is looking at them before they walk in front of a car waiting to turn right on red.

17. Flashing "Don't Walk" means that people should not start crossing the street but should continue if they are in the roadway.

18. Steady "Don't Walk" means do not cross the street - wait for a new "Walk" sign.

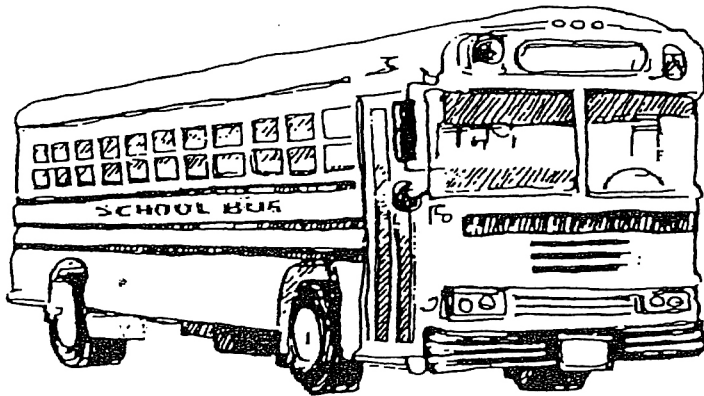
19. Go over the "What I Learned Today" flier with your children.

20. If there are adult school crossing guards along your route to school, introduce your children to the guard and tell your children that the guard is a person who will help them. Let your guard assist you and your children in crossing so that the children understand that they must listen to the guard when you're not there. Also instruct your child on what you would want them to do if they reach the corner and find out for some reason the guard isn't there.



21. When you reach school, if safety cadets are on duty, tell your children that safety cadets are also there to help them cross the street.

22. Walk your children to school as often as necessary and remember to set the right example for them not only en route to school and home but also any time you're with them.



## RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS

1. For the first few days of school, walk your children to the bus stop. You will have to choose the safest route to that stop and teach them the same things as mentioned in the "Walking to School" section.
2. Be sure to reach the bus stop about 5 minutes ahead of time. The pick-up time is listed on the information notice mailed to you.
3. There may be more than one bus stopping at that corner. Make sure your children know the bus number. The number will be located to the left of the entry door.
4. The school bus may be stopping to pick up passengers at any of the 4 corners. You will have to watch for buses coming from any direction. Routes should not change after the first day and after you locate the pick-up corner, direct your children to wait there. Go over the school safety rules and rider responsibilities sheet with your children.
5. Meet your children at the bus stop at the end of the day.

QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO BUSING provided by the Milwaukee Public Schools should be directed to the Department of Transportation Services, phone number 475-8922.

## CAR PASSENGER SAFETY

1. Since more children are hurt as car passengers than walking or driving bicycles, it may be safer for your children to walk. If you have to drive your children, instruct them to wear their safety belts. If you teach them to buckle up at this age, it should be a habit that they form that will stay with them the rest of their lives.
2. To convince your children to wear belts, you will have to set the example and wear yours.
3. Parents driving to school can endanger both their own children and others. Please review the "To Parents Who Drive to School" flier.



**CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
MILWAUKEE SAFETY COMMISSION**

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