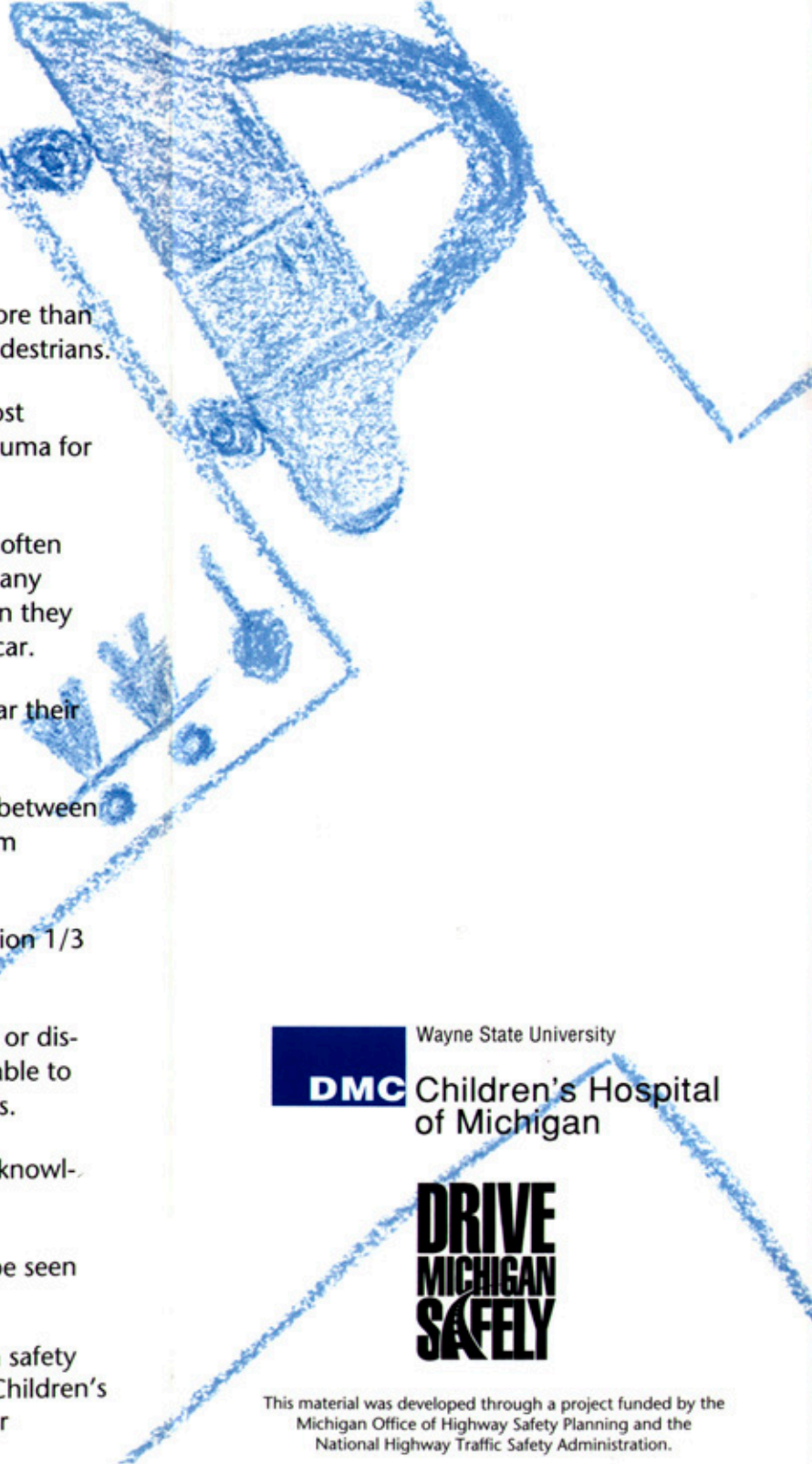


# Facts About Pedestrian Injuries

- Each year in the United States more than 50,000 children are injured as pedestrians.
- Pedestrian injuries remain the most common cause of death from trauma for children ages 5 to 9.
- Preschool children are quick and often unaware of danger. Each year, many children are injured or killed when they suddenly dart into the path of a car.
- Most preschoolers are injured near their home or on their own street.
- Most pedestrian injuries happen between 3 and 5 p.m. and in fair and warm weather.
- Young children have a field of vision 1/3 narrower than adults.
- Children cannot judge the speed or distance of moving cars and are unable to determine the direction of sounds.
- Children overestimate their own knowledge and physical strength.
- Young children are too small to be seen from the driver's seat.

For more information on pedestrian safety or other child safety issues call the Children's Hospital of Michigan Trauma Center 313-745-0072.



Wayne State University  
**DMC** Children's Hospital  
of Michigan

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# Pedestrian SAFETY

**Children's Hospital  
of Michigan  
Trauma Center**



# STREET SENSE TIPS

- Never let children under 8 years of age cross the street alone. Tell them who can help them cross safely.
- Teach your child always to cross at the corner and use the LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT rule to make sure the road is clear.
- Explain how they can be hidden when walking out between cars, vans, ice cream trucks, buses, etc.
- If they can't cross at the corner, teach them to stop at the edge of the vehicle and use the LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT rule.
- Teach your child to look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT when crossing driveways, whether on the sidewalk or in the street. Drivers may be pulling in or backing out and may not see your child. Always beware of children playing in the driveway or on the sidewalk.
- Never tell children to cross when you are on the other side. Cross the street and walk back with them.
- Walk your child to school, pointing out danger areas and places they need to be extra careful. Obey all safety patrols and crossing guards.
- Practice often with your children, praising them when directions are properly followed.
- Be a role model—use the LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT rule whenever you cross the street.

Children are ready to learn different things about street safety at different ages. It is important to teach them safety they can grasp.

## Children 8 and under should be taught to:

- Cross streets only with the supervision of an older person whom the parent or caregiver has identified as responsible.
- Stay away from streets and always stop and look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT before crossing a driveway. Not only does this help keep children safe, it teaches them the safe walking behaviors that will be required of them as they get older.
- Never play or ride toys in the driveway or street, and never chase balls, toys or pets into the street. Always get an older person to get them.

## Children 9 to 12 should be taught to:

- Stop at the curb, look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT and listen for any cars that may be in the neighborhood but cannot be seen. When the way is clear walk, don't run, across the street, continuing to look both ways while crossing.
- Never enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes or shrubs.
- Cross only at the corners.
- Watch for turning cars.
- Play away from traffic.
- Be especially careful on rainy days.

- Obey safety patrols and crossing guards. The safest place for children to cross the street while going to school is at a corner that has a safety patrol or crossing guard.
- Stand back from the road while waiting for the bus and wait for it to come to a complete stop.
- Recognize and obey all traffic signals and markings. Never enter into the street if the "DON'T WALK" signal is on or flashing.
- Always walk on sidewalks. When sidewalks are not available, walk facing oncoming traffic and stay as far to the left as possible.
- Look out for other traffic when one vehicle stops to let them cross. Cars may pull around to pass the stopped car, putting children in danger.
- Attempt to make eye contact with drivers of stopped or turning vehicles, but never assume the drivers can see them.
- Watch for vehicles turning into or backing out of parking spaces in parking lots and garages.

## Children ages 12 and above should be taught to:

- Be good role models for younger children by using the safe walking behaviors they have learned.