

PEDESTRIAN SENSE FOR CHILDREN

School is out for the summer . Please review these safety tips with your children so everyone has a safe and happy summer.

1. **Always walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk** away from the curb or roadway. This way, you are less exposed to vehicles.
2. **If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic** so you can see oncoming vehicles and drivers can see you.
3. **Dress to be seen.** Bright clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime. At dusk, night or in poor weather, wear reflective material on your shoes, cap or jacket.
4. **Steps to crossing safely:**
 - STOP** before stepping onto a road, driveway or lane
 - LOOK** all directions, left-right-left and over you shoulder for vehicles that may be turning. Keep looking for approaching vehicles as you cross.
 - LISTEN** for approaching vehicles that aren't visible, but could be coming from a driveway, around a corner or over a hill.
 - MAKE EYE CONTACT** with the drivers, so you know they see you and they know you see them.
 - CHECK** that vehicles have stopped before you step off the curb or road.
 - OBEY ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS.**
 - WALK, DON'T RUN,** across at street, driveway or lane.
5. **Don't wear headphones** when crossing the street. You won't be able to hear signs of danger.
6. **Don't jaywalk.** Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks.
7. **Parked vehicles can be dangerous.** An approaching driver may not see you between parked vehicles, and you may not see moving vehicles. Stop and look left-right-left around the parked vehicle before crossing.
8. **Parking lots require your special attention.** Vehicles can back up or move without warning and drivers are often distracted.
9. **Rules for railway crossing:**
 - DON'T PLAY AROUND RAILWAY CROSSINGS.** These are danger zones.
 - KNOW THAT TRAINS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY.** They do not slow down at crossing like vehicles do. Use designated railway crossings and obey all signals and signs.
 - WAIT UNTIL A TRAIN PASSES COMPLETEY BEFORE CROSSING THE TRACKS.** Watch for more than one train, and check if a train is coming from the opposite direction.
 - LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT BEFORE CROSSING.** Be extra careful and watch your step when crossing railway tracks.

By Bernice Ducharm a Creston Valley Insurance Representative