

# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

## U.S. Statistics Pedestrian Accidents and Children

(Source: Safe Kids USA)

- Each year approximately 630 child pedestrian fatalities occur
- Children sustain more than 39,000 non fatal pedestrian injuries each year
- 83 percent of child pedestrian deaths occur at non-intersection locations
- One in four child pedestrian deaths occur between 6:00pm and 9:00pm
- Children around the age of 2 to 4 years are more likely to be involved in a pedestrian accident in a driveway or parking lot
- The maturity level of a child under the age of 10 years makes him/her unable to correctly gauge the speed of vehicles putting them at greater risk for injury and death
- Four out of five driveway related incidents occur to children ages 4 and under

## Ways For Communities To Protect Pedestrians

- Lower speed limits in residential areas
- Provide pedestrian walkways
- Fix/improve sidewalks
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle crossings
- Conduct public education campaigns

## Pedestrian Safety Facts

1. Drivers can't often see children in or near the roadway because of their size. Cars are big and children are small.
2. Drivers are not always looking out for children. They may over estimate the skills and knowledge that children have as pedestrians.
3. It's never too early to teach your child the rules of being safe around traffic. A child age 10-years or older can learn to cross the street on their own. Whether they are ready depends on their behavior and level of responsibility.
4. Parents should be a proper role model for their children when it comes to pedestrian safety.
5. Georgia Traffic Law says that Drivers should STOP for pedestrians in a crosswalk on your side of the street. Drivers should also STOP for a pedestrian approaching and within one lane of your side of the street.

## Pedestrian Rules For Traffic Safety

1. **Walk on the sidewalk:** If there are no sidewalks, walk as close to the left side of the street as possible facing traffic.
2. **Cross at the cross walk:** Cross only at intersections or street corners whenever possible. When available, cross between the white painted crosswalk lines.
3. **Stop before crossing the street:** Never dart or dash out into the street, especially from between parked cars along the roadway.
4. **Obey all traffic signals:** Be sure to look at all traffic signals before stepping into the street.
5. **Wear bright clothing to be seen:** At night, wear light colored clothes and reflective strips.
6. **Watch for turning traffic:** Try to make eye contact with drivers. Be cautious for right turns on red.
7. **Watch for vehicles backing out of driveways:** Look for indications that a car may be backing in the roadway, from a parking space, or from a driveway.
8. **Do not play in the street:** Teach children to never play in the street.
9. **Hold a child's hand when crossing the street:** Hold hands when crossing the street. Children should be supervised whenever they are near traffic.

## Rules For Crossing The Street Safely

When crossing the street, remember to always cross at a crosswalk whenever possible. Regardless of the presence of a cross walk, always follow the general rules:

- Stop before entering the street
- Look left, right, then left again
- Look and listen for vehicles traveling in your direction
- Cross quickly to the other side of the street
- Be on the lookout for other hazards like: driveways and parking spaces, and cars parked along the roadway

Learn more safety information at [GwinnettSafety411.com](http://GwinnettSafety411.com)