

Dear Parent,

It sounds simple. Tell your child to stop before they enter the street, look carefully and cross when there aren't any cars coming. But it's not that easy to get your child to always cross safely.

Children have difficulty seeing traffic because they are short and can't see to their side. That's why it is important to teach them to go to the edge of cars for their search and turn their heads completely.

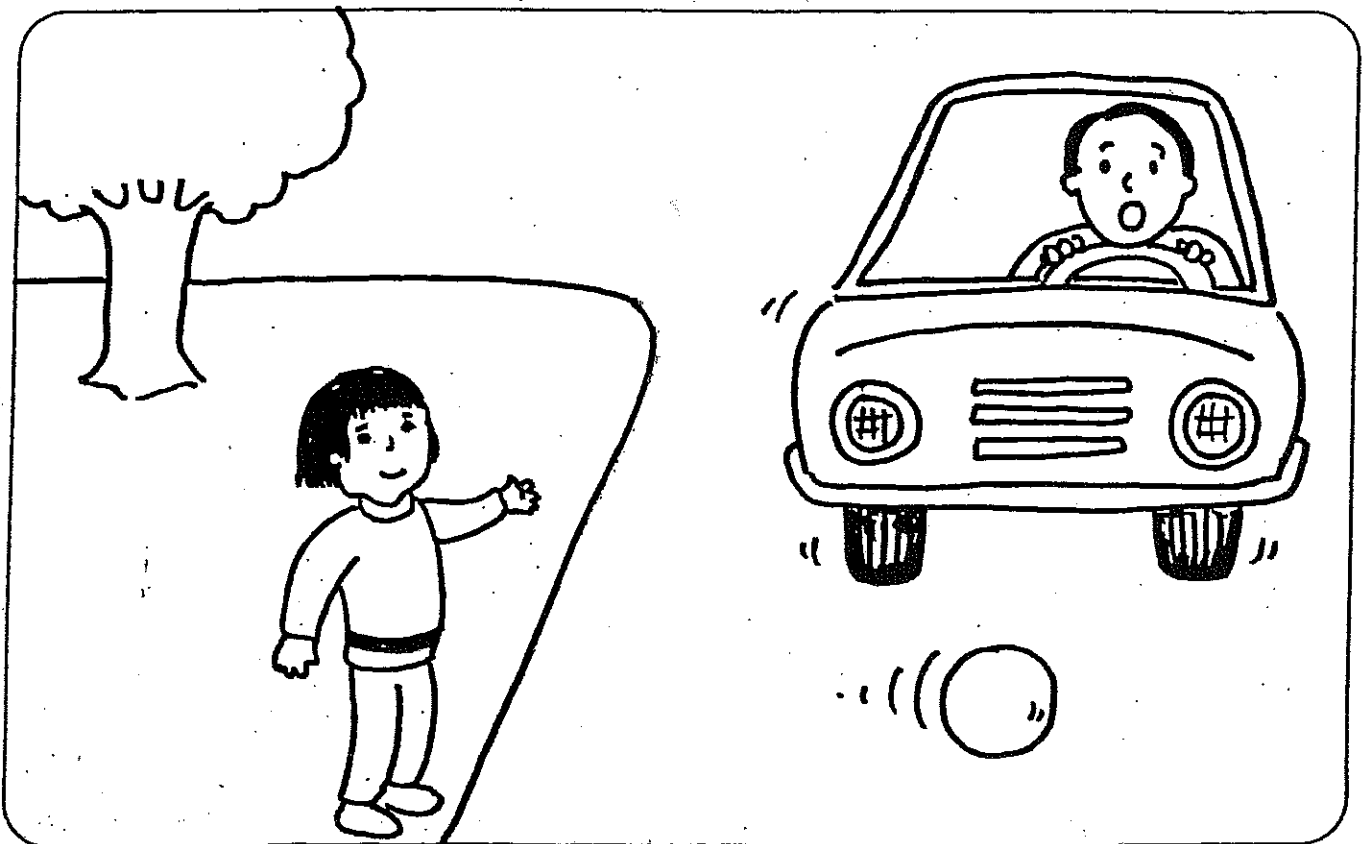
Because children have difficulty judging the speed and stopping distances of cars your child should not cross if they see any cars coming. It's not until they are about 10 that they begin to understand how traffic works.

Being able to repeat these rules is not enough. They need to show you they can cross safely. Start out by crossing with them hand in hand, pointing out how to cross safely and gradually giving them more independence over a period of weeks. Repetition is very important.

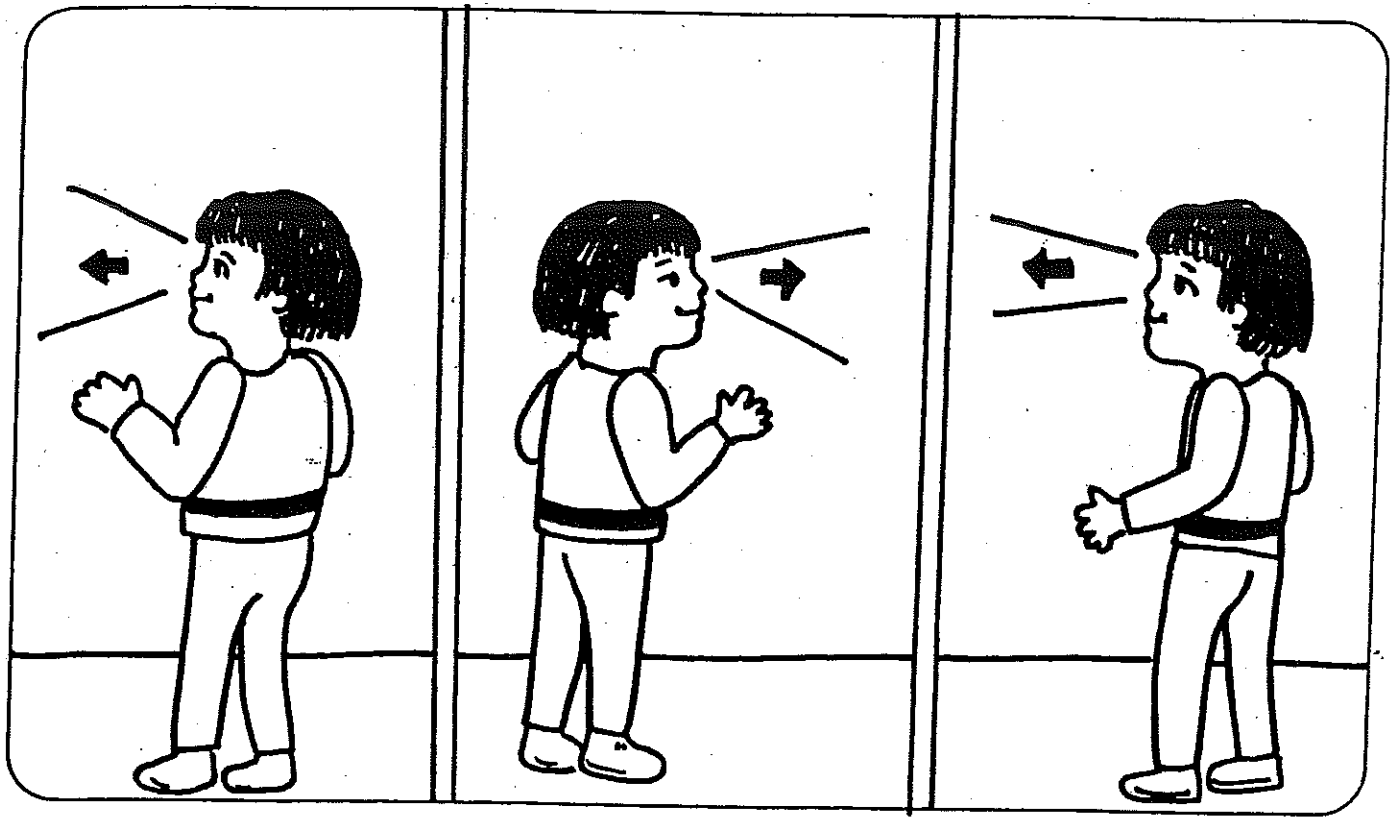
Children sometimes forget what they know and chase a ball into the street or run across to see a friend. Encourage your child to play in safe places like backyards and parks away from traffic.

Remember to be safe when you cross and actively look for children when you are driving.

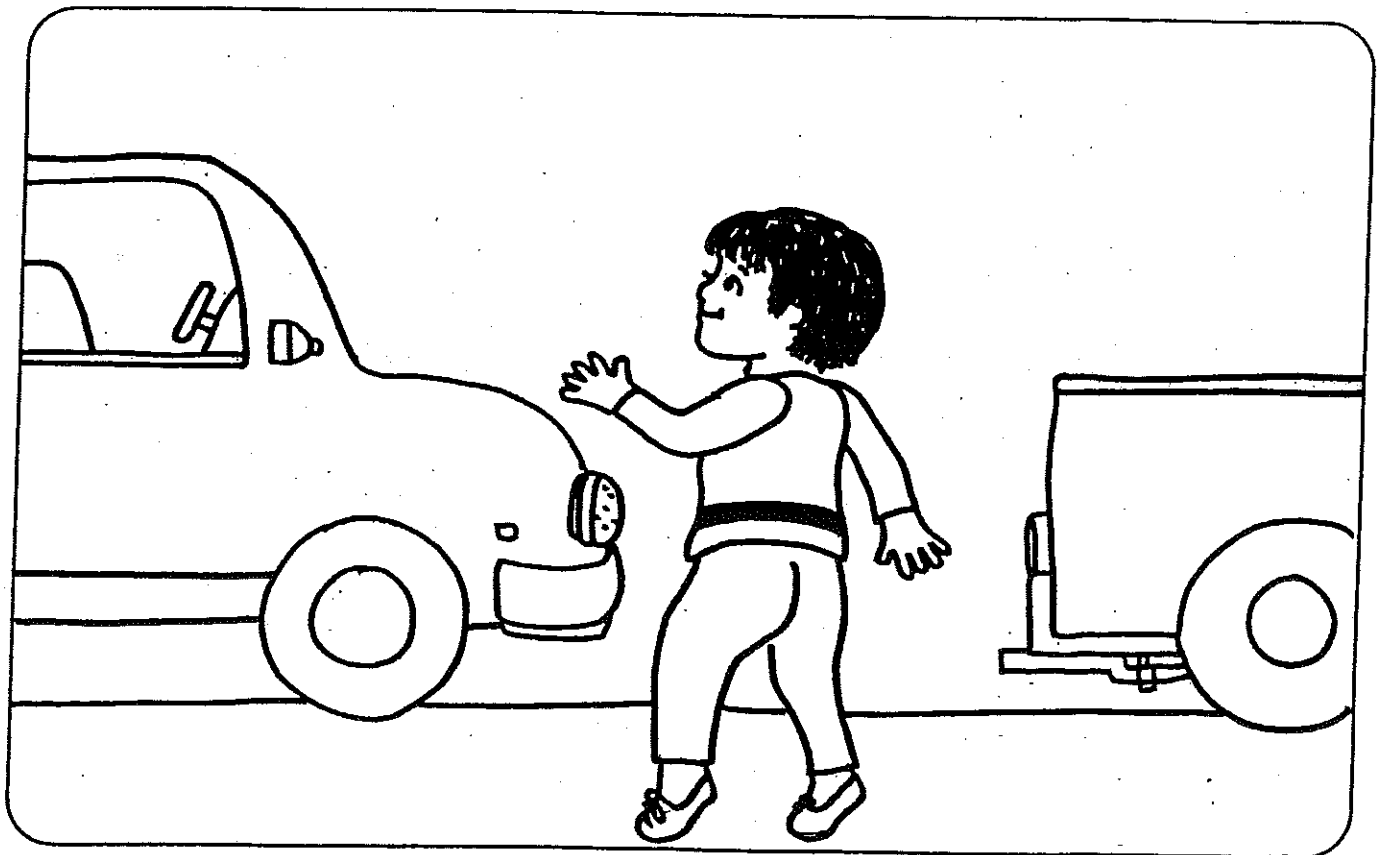
Prepared by the Madison Department of Transportation Art by Meri Lau.



I stop at the edge.



I look left, right and left again.



I peek around the car.