



**SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOLS**

MARIN COUNTY

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Title: Walk Around the Block

Grade level: 2

Introduction: Practicing the safe crossing procedure of stopping at the edge, looking left then right, then left again and listening for cars before crossing the street.

Objective: This activity is the follow up to a classroom lesson that taught the students about the concept of the edge (curbs, the edge of the street if there is no curb and the edge of a parked car). The lesson emphasizes the importance of always stopping at every edge, looking and listening for moving cars.

Set Up: Scout a route in the neighborhood that includes one basic intersection, at least one crosswalk, a hidden driveway and an opportunity to cross around parked cars.

Materials:

- ° 2 parent volunteers for each 7-10 students
 - 2 Safe Routes Instructors
 - Safe Street Crosser Certificate
- each team will need:*
- ° cell phone/ way of contacting other group
 - first aid kit
 - safety vests or umbrellas (not yet owned by Safe Routes program)

Preparation:

Scout a route in a neighborhood that includes one basic intersection, at least one crosswalk, a blocked driveway (a driveway that is difficult to see because of a fence or a bush) and an opportunity to cross around parked cars. As much as possible, the walking route needs to be on sidewalks. The route works best if the students move from least complicated to most complicated crossing. Students should cross in partners or small groups with an adult at each side of the street. On larger streets, the whole class may cross together.

Instruction/Modeling:

- The Walk Around the Block is a privilege; it is a reward for having done well in the classroom activity.
- You must stay with your group and listen to the leaders.
- The whistle means STOP.
- Students will behave respectfully and safely, any unsafe behavior will not be tolerated.
- What we expect to see is that each of you will stop at every edge, look left, then right then left, all the way over your shoulder like we just practiced. We stop, we look, what else do we do? Grab your ear for a hint

Activity:

Play T3 says with squeaky toy to prepare youth for paying attention and to review left and right.

Discussion/ Activity During Walk:

- Would you ever go for a walk with a stranger? (NO)
- Would you ever go for a walk alone? (NO, second graders are not allowed to walk to school alone and should only walk with an adult)
- Watch for potential hazards and ask the children to point them out:
 - Dogs
 - Bushes blocking visibility
 - fences blocking visibility
 - intersections without crosswalks
 - intersections without stop signs or lights
 - driveways (talk to them about how dangerous driveways are when you ride your bike on the sidewalk)
- At one intersection take the opportunity to ask why we look left first and twice. Point out that because cars always drive on the right side of the road the car coming from the left is the one which will hit you first.
- We will try and create an opportunity to practice crossing between parked cars at the beginning or the end of the course; the edge we must stop at is now the edge of the parked car.
- Encourage students to be observant and describe what they see on the walk and what they think about it. Are there lots of nice trees? Good sidewalks? Too much traffic?
- Ask them to talk about some places they like to walk or ride bikes and who they like to go with.

Activity:

Hand out and fill out Safe Street Crosser Certificate.

Assessment:

Were students able to display the Stop, Look and Listen procedure. Did they participate in the discussion? Did they make observations and have comments?

Closing:

Suggest the students go home and share what they did with the adults they like to walk with and take them for a walk and show them what they know.