

# ***Crossing to Safety***

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**LEVEL:** K-1-2-3-4-5

**SUBJECT AREA(S):** Health, Social Studies, Language Arts, Art

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will be able to identify smart places to cross the street.

For Your Information

- ★ None of the lessons about crossing streets address traffic signals fully because of their complexity.

**TIME:** 50 minutes to 1 hour

**MATERIALS**

- φ Figures 7-1 through 7-5: Smart/At-Risk Places to Cross
- φ Tape or tacks

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

1. Discuss the following with students:

- ◇ What do we call the places where cars drive?  
(streets, roads, highways)
- ◇ What do we call the places along streets where people walk?  
(sidewalks, pathways)
- ◇ May cars drive on the sidewalks? (no)
- ◇ May cars drive or park on the shoulder? (yes)

- ◇ Where are people allowed to walk in the streets?  
(only in certain places, such as in crosswalks, at corners, and when there are no sidewalks)
2. Distribute a different figure (7-1 through 7-5) to each of five students. Have them show each illustration to the rest of the class and to state whether or not it shows a smart place to cross, and why or why not?

### For Your Information

- ★ In Colorado, pedestrians have the right-of-way in a crosswalk, but anytime someone is in a roadway he or she is at risk. Cars will always be a danger.
- ★ Very few crosswalks are marked. Most children cross streets at intersections with unmarked crosswalks.
- ★ **Figure 7-1: Risky.** No corner, no marked crosswalk, only cars to dart between; motorists cannot see you.
- ★ **Figure 7-2: Risky.** No corner, no marked crosswalk or traffic signal, only alleys and driveways, curve ahead in the road makes it even more dangerous.
- ★ **Figure 7-3: Smart.** Intersection with a marked crosswalk, a crosswalk sign, and street markings.
- ★ **Figure 7-4: Smart.** Intersection with WALK/DON'T WALK signals (pedestrian traffic signals) and crosswalk markings. Smart to cross when signal says WALK.
- ★ **Figure 7-5: Risky.** Intersection with curbing with grass and trees, but no marked crosswalk or traffic signal.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Ask students, working alone or in cooperative-learning groups, to draw or discuss a smart place to cross or a risky one in their own neighborhood. Involve the class in determining which kind of place each student has drawn.

### **EXTENSIONS**

1. When reading stories or watching videos, point out whether or not characters are crossing streets at smart places.

2. Have students take their Smart/At-Risk Places to Cross drawings home to share with their parent(s)/guardian(s).
3. Take students on a walk around the block. Have them point out and discuss the smart and at-risk places to cross. Have them practice looking for cars at each marked or unmarked crosswalk/intersection. Have them look for places where pedestrians are prohibited.
4. Have older students pair up with one in a lower grade to escort and teach safe crossing areas around the school. Develop posters that depict what they learned.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Please refer to the following topics in the *Additional Resources* section in Appendix Three: **Automobiles / Child Safety/Injury Prevention / Pedestrian Safety / Traffic Safety / Walking.**

**Insert Figures 7-1 through 7-5 here.**







