



How I cross a street



To parents: Please review pages 13 to 15 in "Parents' Guide for Action." "How to Cross a Street" explains: (1) that walkers and vehicle traffic move at different speeds, (2) what intersections are and (3) how walkers should use intersections. After you and your child have discussed the material in the booklet, practice the procedures in a real traffic environment.

Generally, children's movement away from home will expand at age 4 or 5, or about the time they start kindergarten or first grade. Children will encounter intersections more frequently and will have to learn to deal with more complex traffic situations. To assist them in preparing to meet these challenges, they should be taught how to cross at intersections. This places them in a better position to deal with traffic.

From a youngster's point of view, crossing a street at an intersection is complicated. They must not only learn to look for traffic coming from at least three different directions, they must also determine whether any of the vehicles will turn onto the street they want to cross. Since they find intersections to be more difficult, children often deliberately cross streets at mid-block.

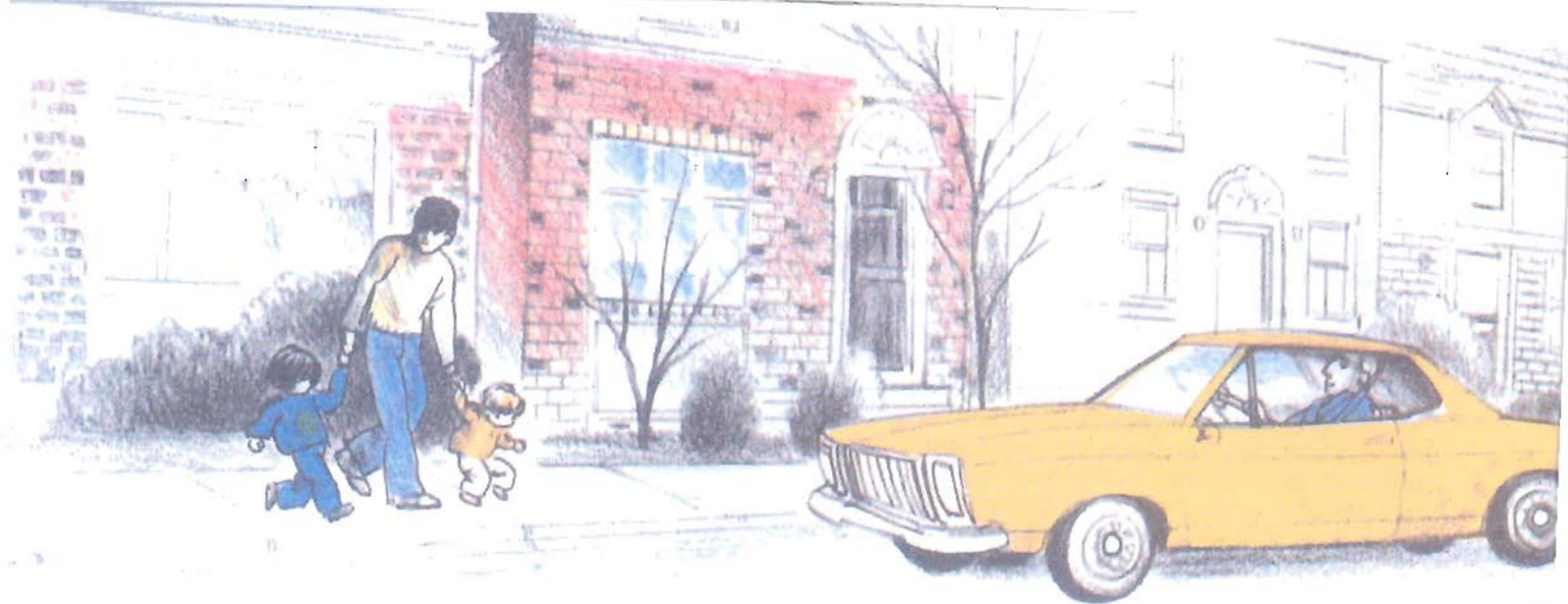
Take your child to an intersection near your home that is controlled by stop signs and discuss what drivers do. At another intersection controlled by yield right-of-way signs, again discuss driver actions. The following kinds of questions can be used to learn how much your child or children understand about

traffic and intersections:

- "Why do some cars stop and others do not?"
- "What could happen if none of the cars stopped?"
- "What do you think it means when the driver has the car's signal light on?"
- "Could a car's signal light mean the driver is going to turn onto the other street at the corner?"

Next, explain how walkers use intersections. In most states, drivers are required by law to yield to a pedestrian crossing at an intersection. However, reality demonstrates to us that we cannot teach children walking habits in terms of ideal conditions. We must teach them to walk defensively. It is critical that children understand that crosswalks indicate where pedestrians should cross streets. It would be very dangerous, however, for them to believe that pedestrians will always be safe just because they use a crosswalk. They must understand that all drivers will not yield or stop to allow them to cross the street.

An excellent learning experience can be provided by having your child observe vehicular and pedestrian traffic from a higher position. The second or third floor of a building with a view of traffic provides such a setting. Under these conditions, children can see the relationship between pedestrians and vehicles. Talk about what you see. Point out streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, moving vehicles and pedestrians. Explain what the walkers and drivers are doing and why.

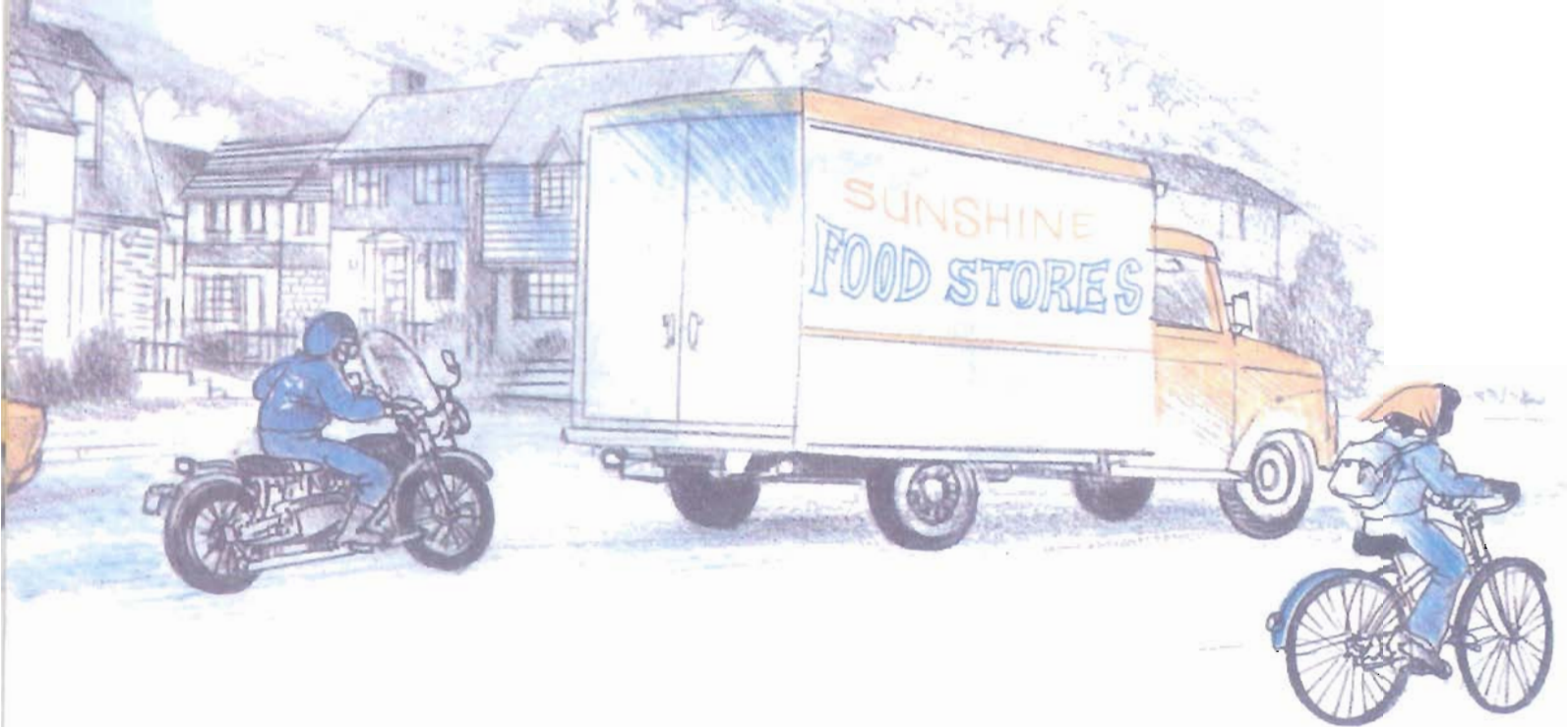


When you are walking, who moves faster?

You, or a baby? . . . a car? . . . a bicycle? . . . a truck?

When you are walking, who moves slower?

You, or a baby? . . . a car? . . . a bicycle? . . . a truck?



Traffic is cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, and buses moving along a street. Traffic goes faster than we can walk. That is why we stop when we get to a street. That is why we look for traffic.



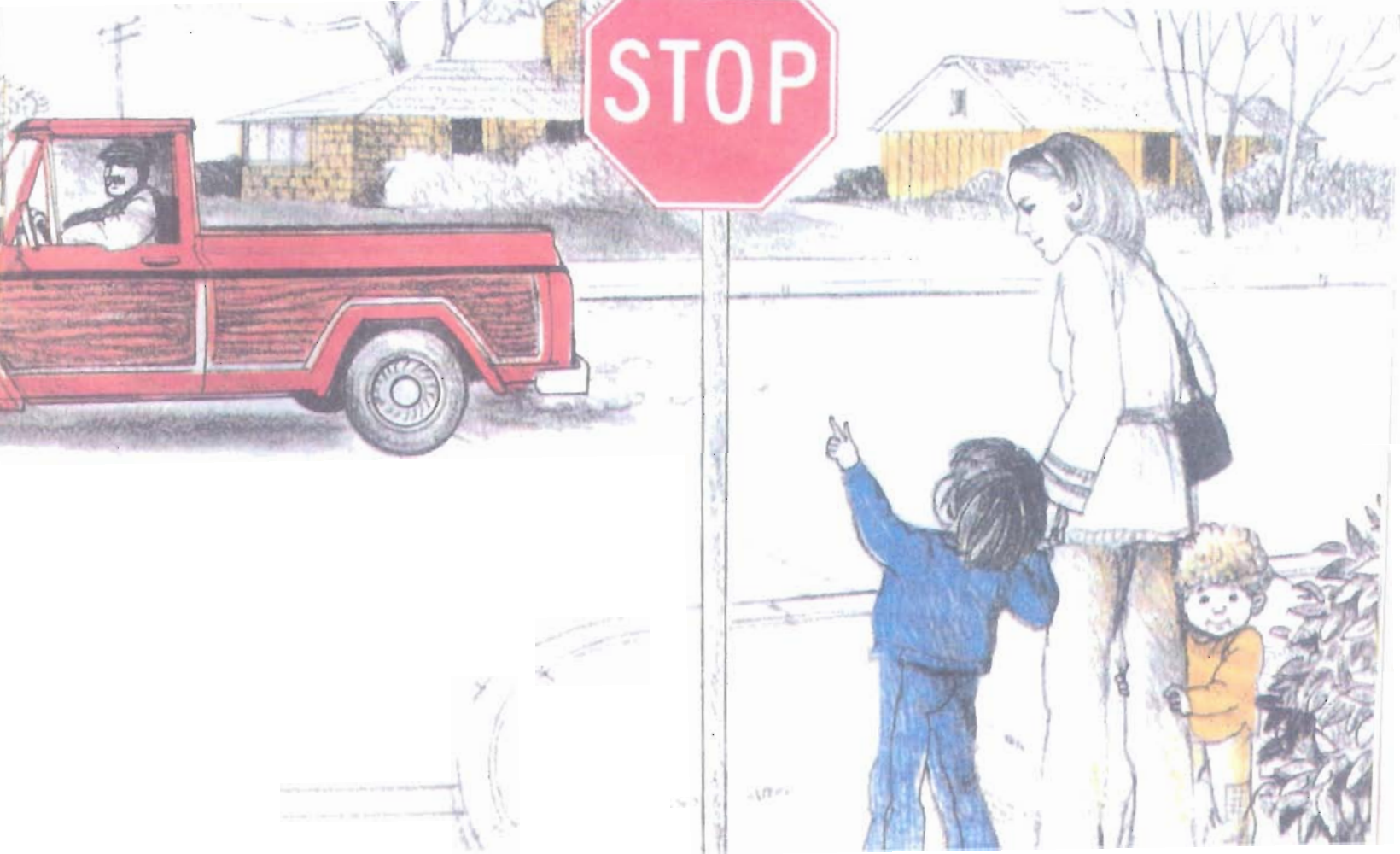
The place where the edge of two streets come together is a street corner. Corners are at intersections.

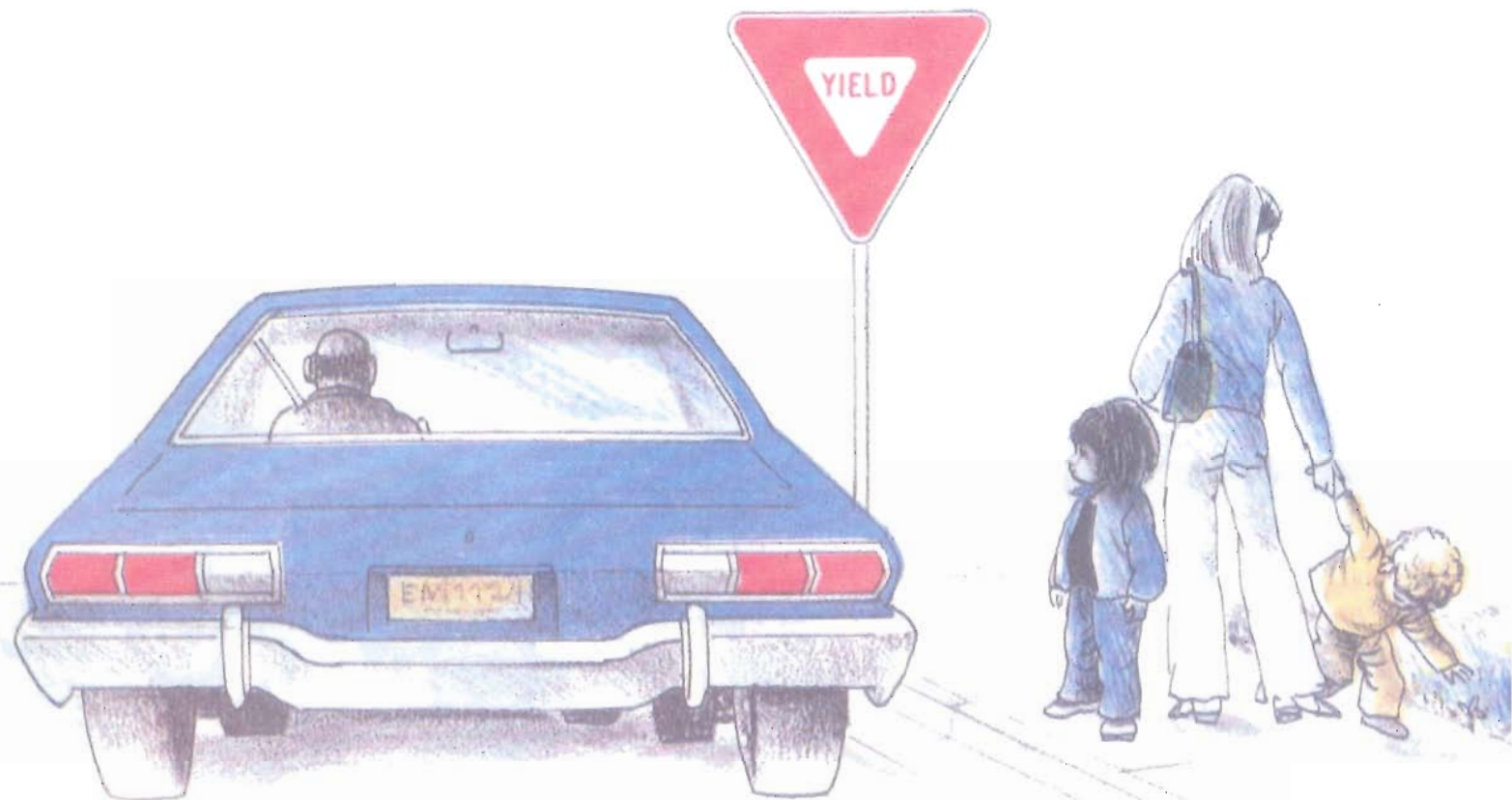


Some corners have painted lines
telling you where to cross the street.
The painted lines are called crosswalks.
Walk inside the lines.

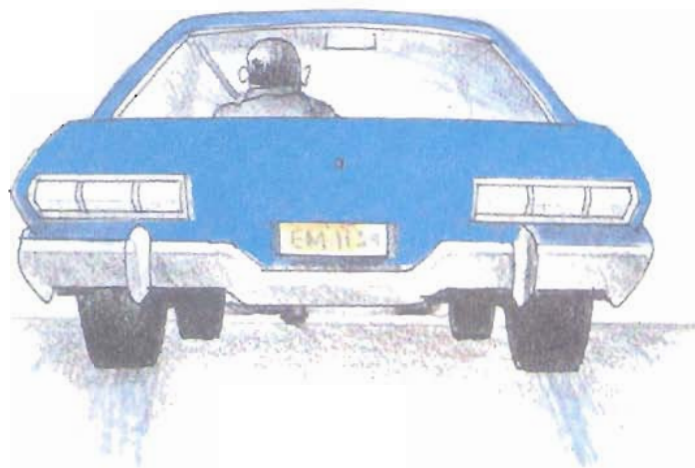


Some corners have stop signs. Drivers and walkers should stop when a stop sign faces them. The blue car and the walkers stop. The truck driver does not face a stop sign. He keeps going. What could happen if the driver of the car did not stop? What could happen if the walkers did not stop?





Some corners have yield signs.
Drivers should slow down when a yield sign faces them.



If a walker is coming, the driver should stop.
But the driver may not see a walker or may not stop.
If the driver does not see you, he will not stop.





We are at a crosswalk.

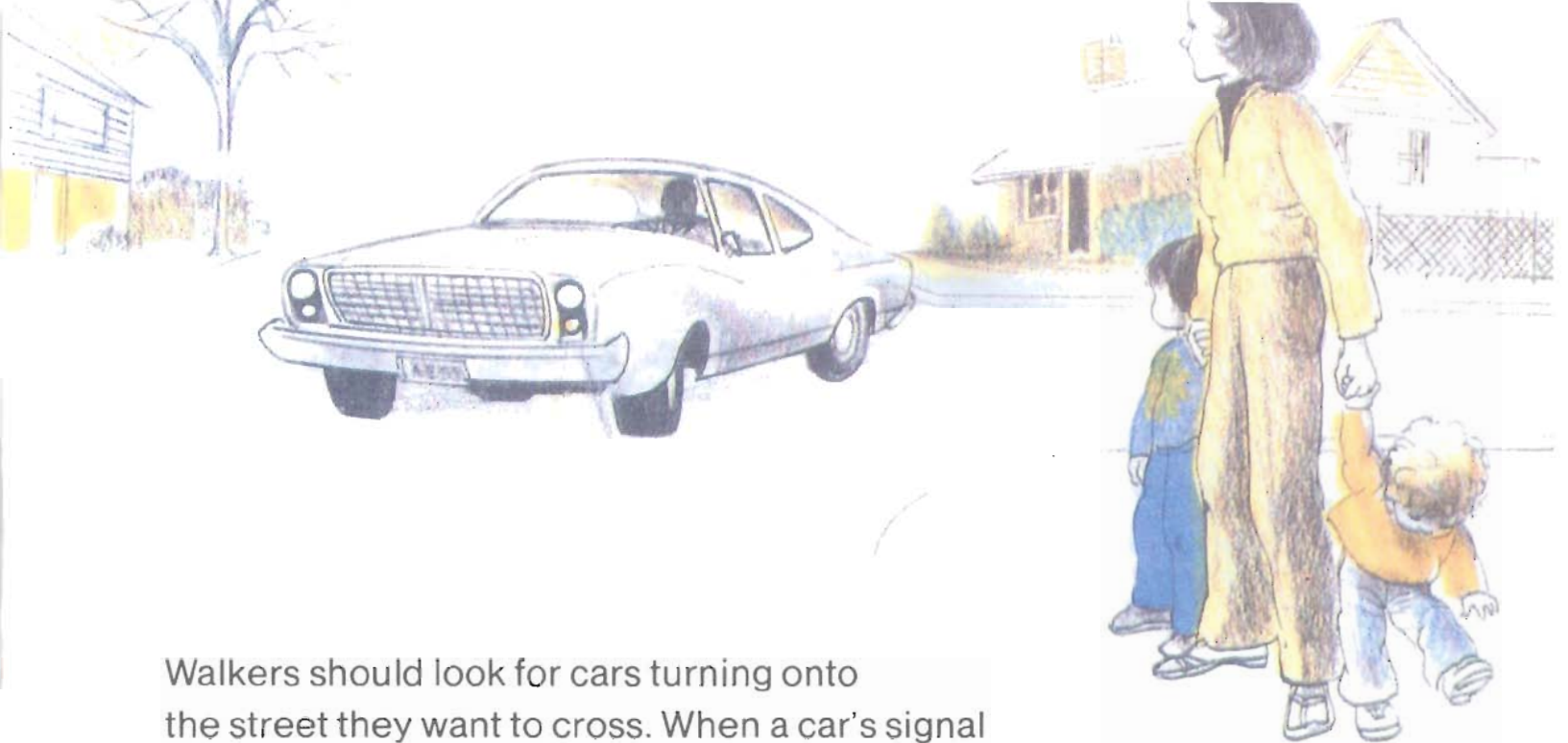
Would we have time to cross before the driver gets to us?

Will the driver stop to let us cross?





We should wait before we walk in front of a stopped car.
The driver might not see us.
The driver could start moving while we are still in front of the car.
If the driver waves for us to cross, then we may cross.
When the driver waves to us, we know he has seen us.



Walkers should look for cars turning onto the street they want to cross. When a car's signal light is on, the driver plans to turn. Sometimes drivers turn without using a signal light. If a car is close to the corner, wait for it to pass.

The Preschool Children in Traffic program was developed by AAA to meet the critical problem of pedestrian accidents involving children under 6 years of age.

Need for such a program is demonstrated in these statistics: children age 2 to 6 represent just over 6% of the total population, but are involved in up to 25% of all pedestrian mishaps.

It was determined that the most promising approach to improving preschool pedestrian safety is to provide parents with concepts and materials needed to assist their children in learning to deal with real-world traffic environments. The problem also is suitable for use by nursery schools, day care centers and other educational systems for the very young.

This program was created by AAA Department of Traffic Safety.

Stock #3265—Includes the Following:
PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN TRAFFIC: Parent's Guide for Action
WHEN I GO OUTSIDE—Booklet 1
I LISTEN AND LOOK FOR CARS COMING—Booklet 2
HOW I CROSS A STREET—Booklet 3
TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHTS—Booklet 4



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