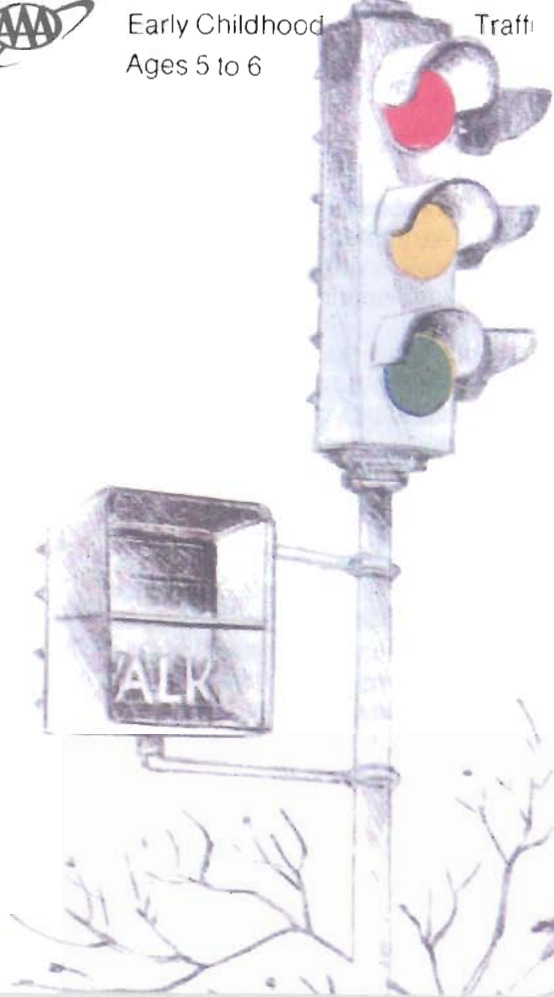




Early Childhood
Ages 5 to 6

Traffi

TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHTS





Hello!
Can you
name
the color
on
this
balloon?

To parents: This booklet explains how pedestrians should use traffic signal lights and walk/don't walk traffic signals. Before discussing these concepts with your child, please review "Parents' Guide for Action."

After reading and discussing this booklet, take your child to an intersection near your home controlled by a traffic signal light. If possible, choose an intersection that your youngster will use when alone. For instance, when walking to or from school, as you stand at the intersection, examine what drivers and walkers do. How do they respond to the signal light?

If the traffic signals are mounted on corner posts, go to different corners of the same intersection. Explain to your child that walkers watch the light straight across the street they want to cross. Explain the meaning and purpose of each color. Emphasize that when the light turns green, walkers still must look for cars that might not stop. In addition, cars may turn onto the street that walkers intend to cross. Reassure your child that the light will turn green. Explain that walkers cross

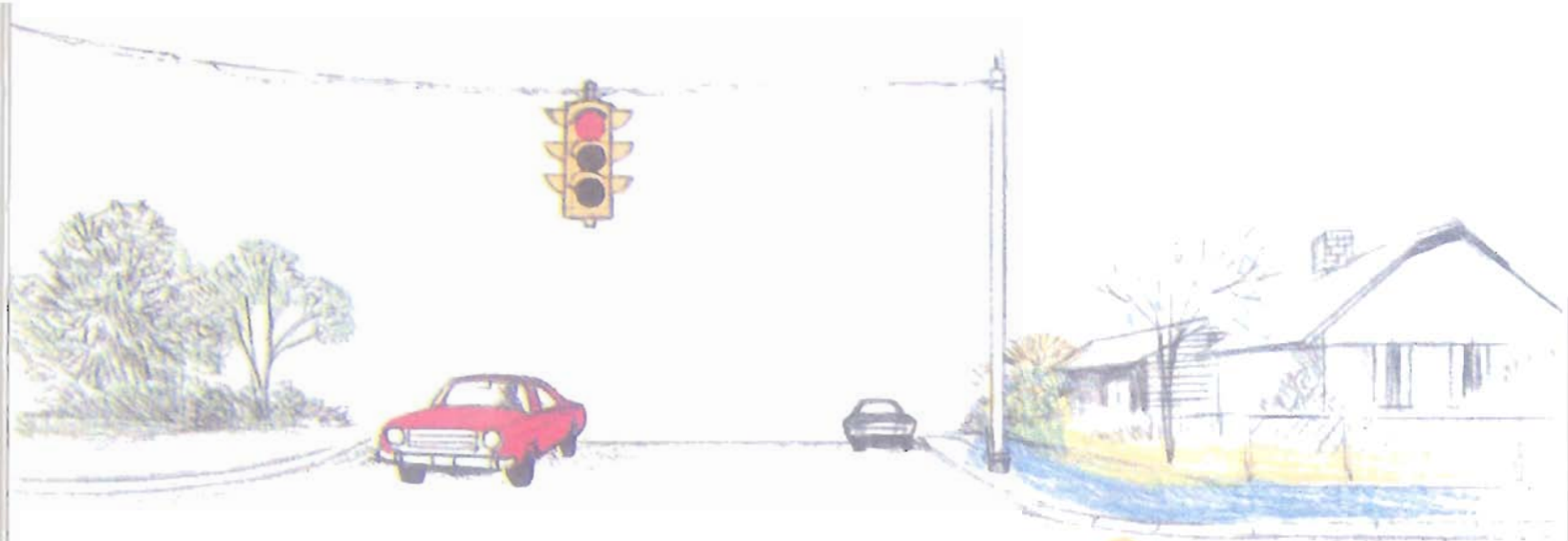
only when the light is green. Help your child to understand that walkers stay on the sidewalk, back from the curb, when cars are still moving. Walkers cross only after drivers stop.

If the intersection is equipped with walk and don't walk signals, explain how to use them. Emphasize that walkers must still look for cars coming or turning even though the light is green and the signal says walk.

Many traffic signal lights hang over the intersection rather than on corner posts. A hanging light is much more difficult for children to use. Since it is higher off the ground, it is difficult to see. Due to its position over the traffic lane, pedestrians cannot see the green light once they start to cross the street. The light they see is red. Teach children to watch the color of the light as they walk toward the intersection. Emphasize that walkers should cross only when they are sure traffic on the street they wish to cross is stopped and the driver sees them.

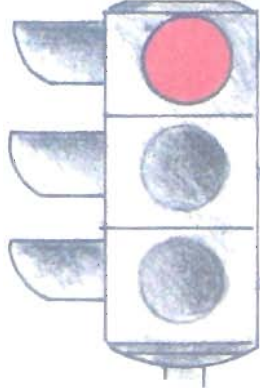


Traffic signal lights tell walkers and drivers when to stop and when they may go. Some signal lights are on posts at corners.

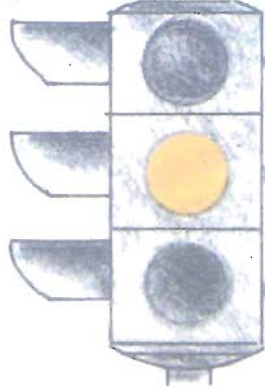


Some traffic lights hang above the street.
They look different from lights that are
on posts.

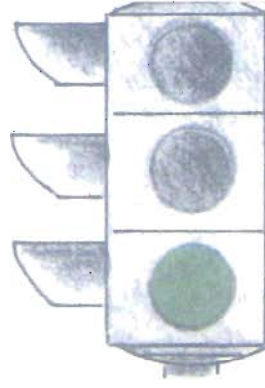




red
STOP



yellow
WAIT



green
LOOK
then
GO

- When traffic lights are on posts at corners, watch the traffic light straight across the street you are going to cross.
- The **Red** light means *STOP*. Stay on the sidewalk back from the curb. You should not cross the street even if no cars are coming.
- The **Yellow** light means *WAIT*. The signal is going to change to red. You do not have enough time to cross the street before the cars move.
- The **Green** light means *LOOK* to see if cars are coming before you cross.

STOP

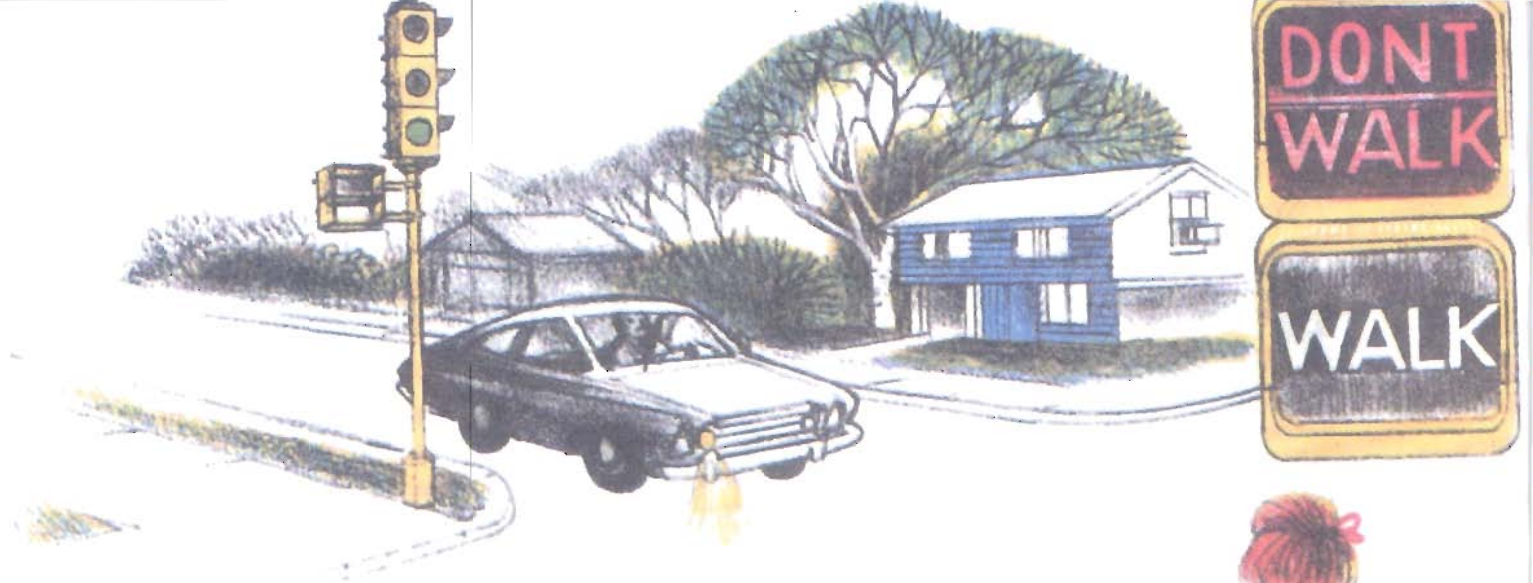


WAIT



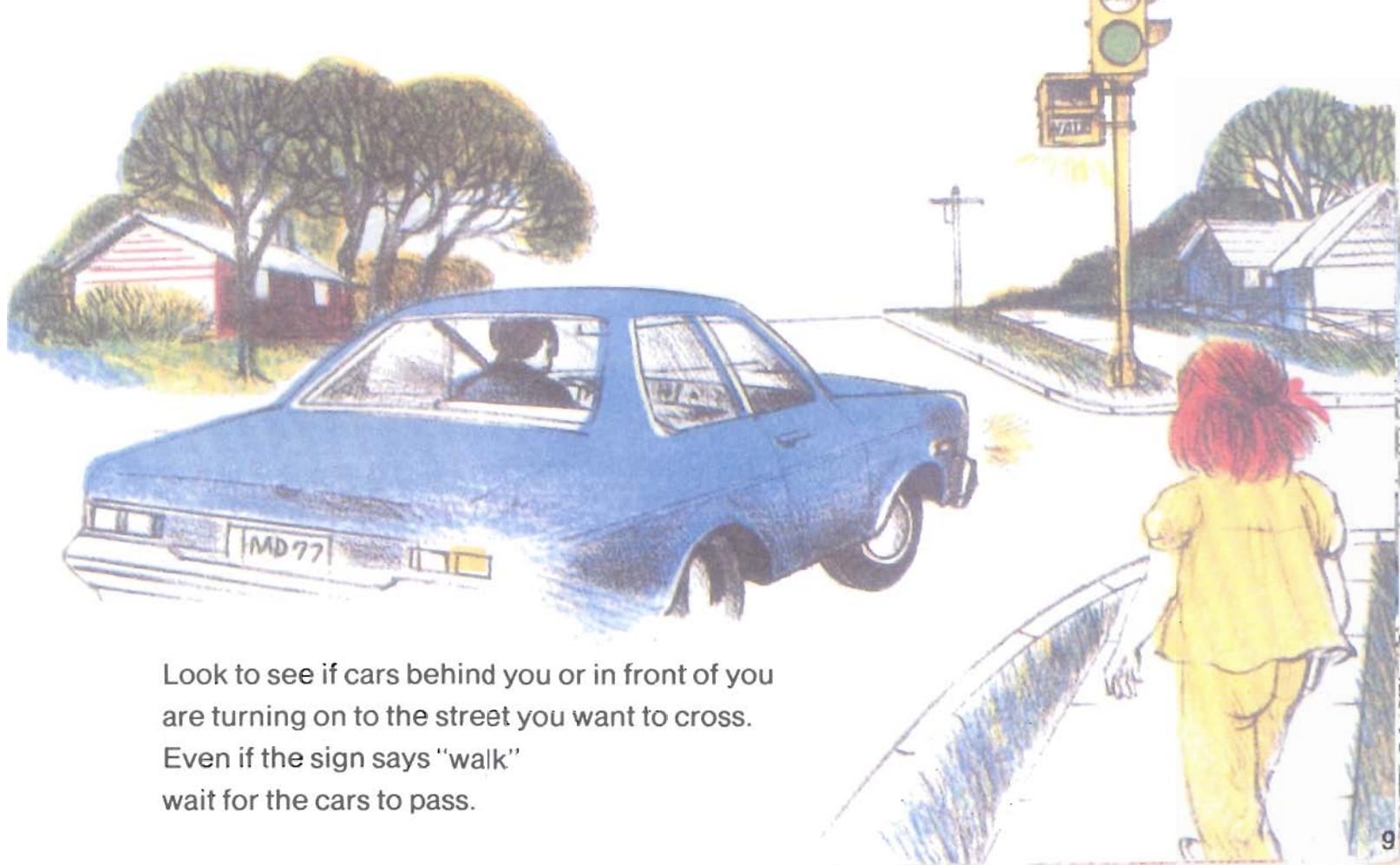
LOOK
then
GO



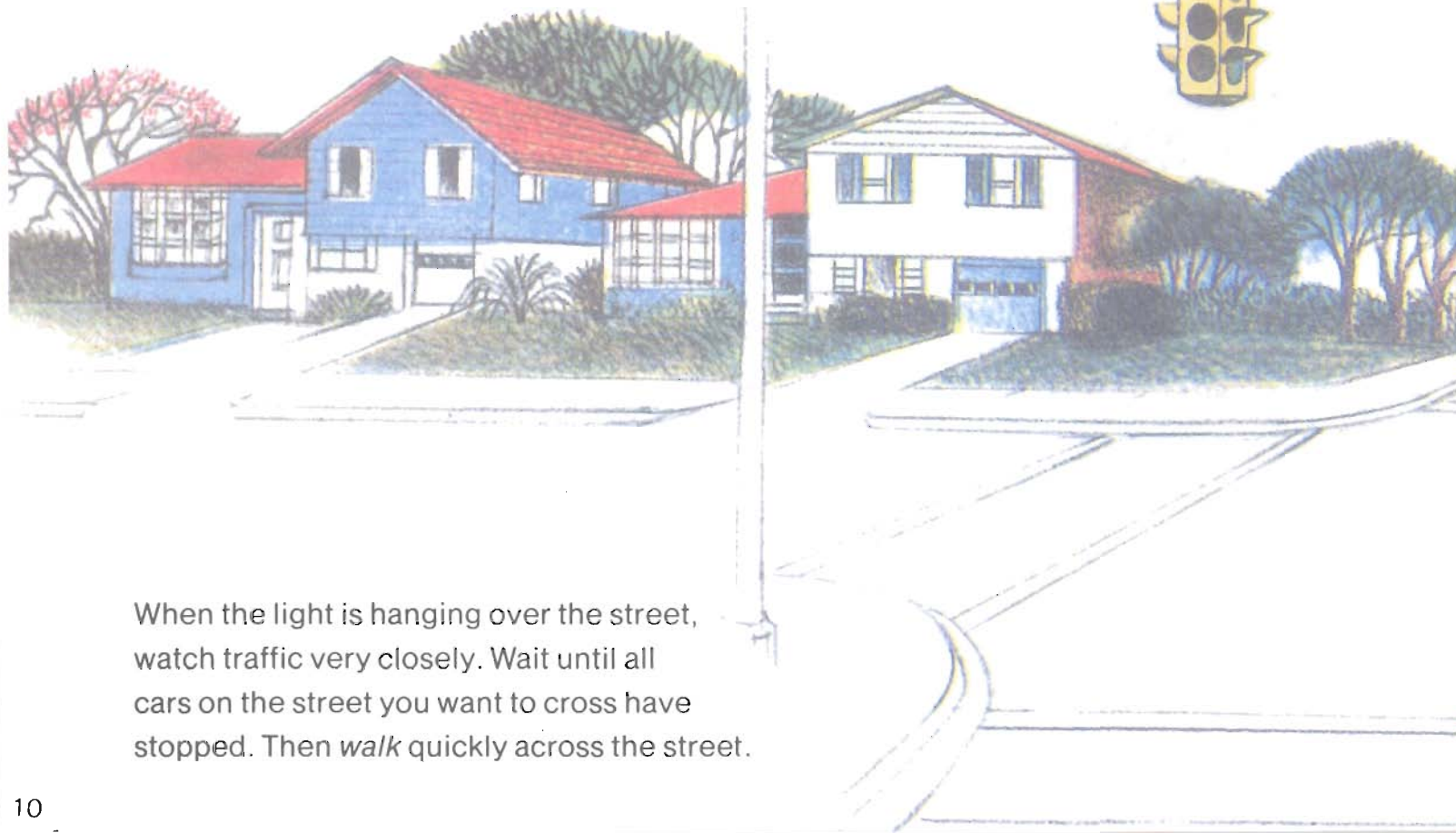


Signs for walkers are just below some traffic signal lights. The signs say either "walk" or "don't walk." The "walk" sign means you may cross the street, but first look for turning cars. The "don't walk" sign means you should wait on the sidewalk. If you can't read the sign ask someone to read it for you.

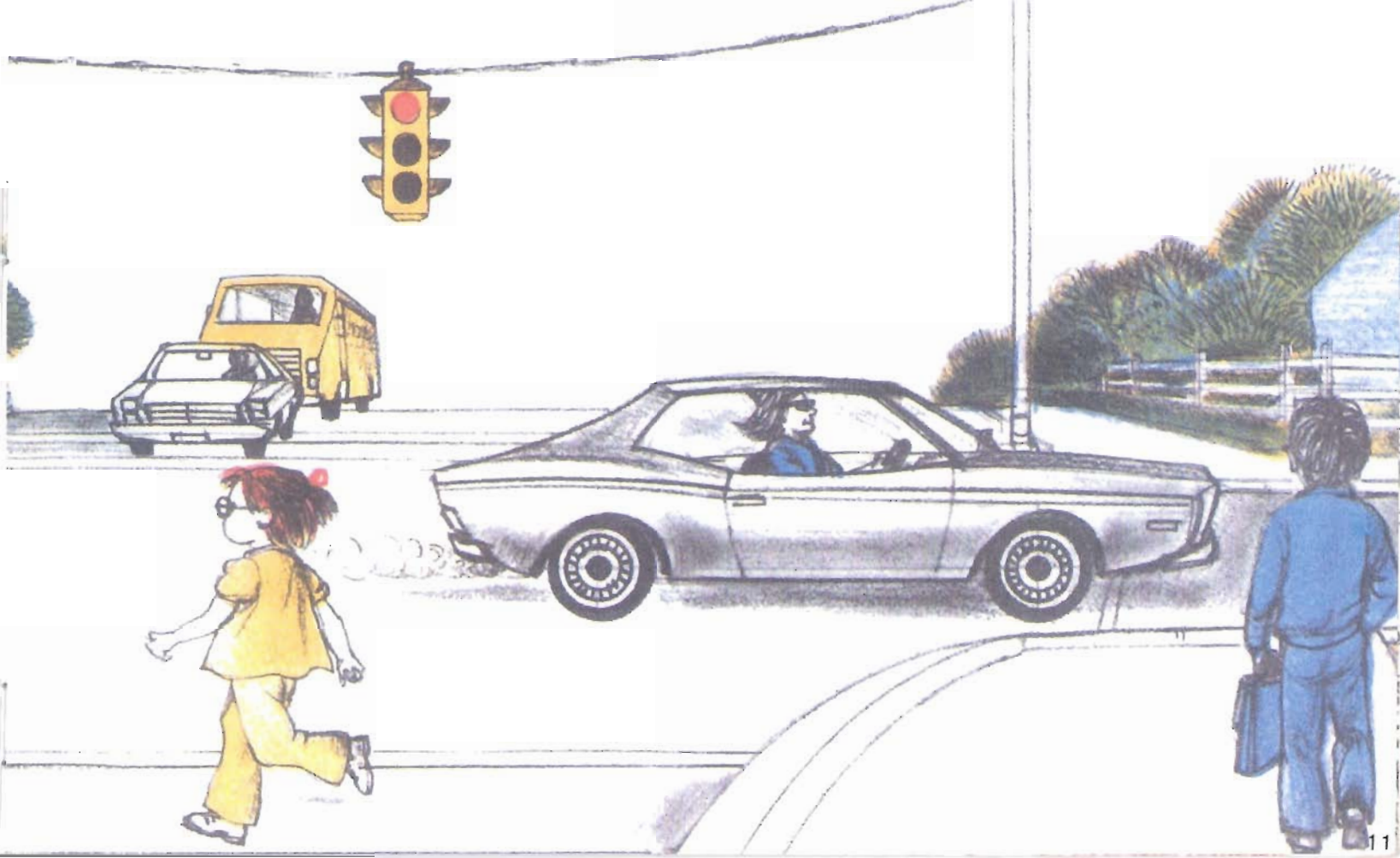


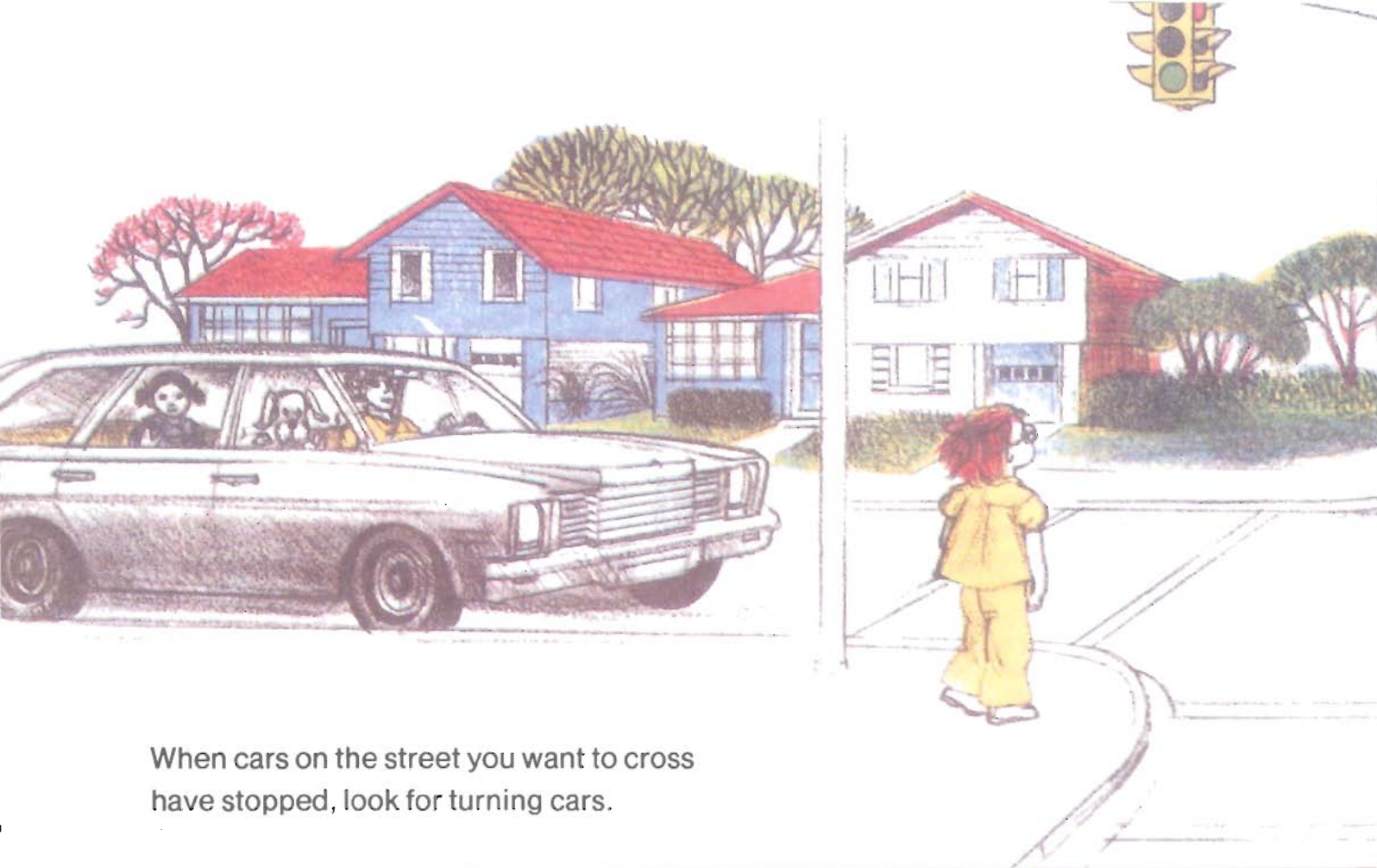


Look to see if cars behind you or in front of you are turning on to the street you want to cross. Even if the sign says "walk" wait for the cars to pass.



When the light is hanging over the street, watch traffic very closely. Wait until all cars on the street you want to cross have stopped. Then *walk* quickly across the street.





When cars on the street you want to cross have stopped, look for turning cars.

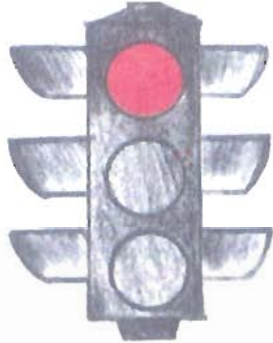




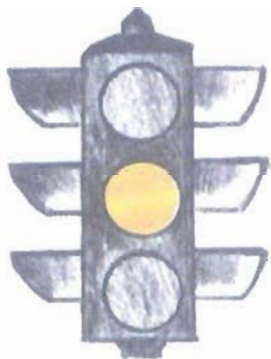
I must look for cars coming and turning at corners.



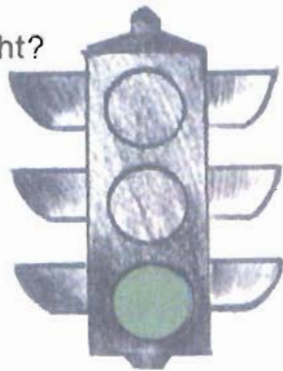
What do I do at a red light?



What do I do at a yellow light?



What do I do at a green light?



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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