



Early Childhood Traffic Education – 1
Ages 2½ to 6

When I go outside



To parents: Please read "Parents' Guide for Action" prior to discussing this booklet with your child and introducing him or her to the suggested learning activities. This booklet explains that children must stay out of streets unless they are with an adult or competent older child. It illustrates how places where children play and people walk are different from areas where cars, trucks or busses park and drive. The word "walker" is used rather than pedestrian. Children can remember and use "walker" which in turn helps them grasp the ideas they need to understand.

In addition to reading the booklet, take your youngsters for walks and show them where and how to walk. Hold your child's hand and walk between him or her and the street. This puts you in control of possible emergency situations. Point out curbs and where the yard ends and the edge of the street begins to make clear where the walker's territory ends and the car's begins.

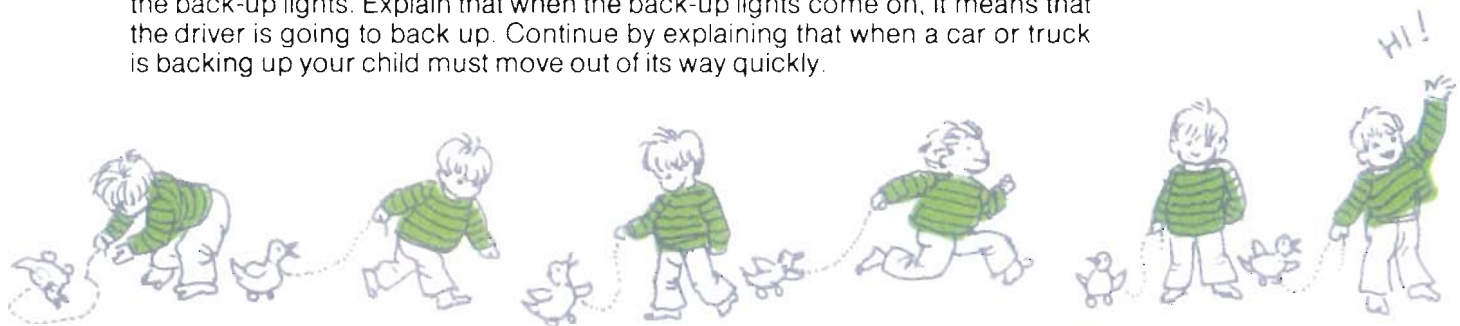
Make a habit of stopping before crossing every street. Many times you will not need to stop to determine whether cars are approaching. However, children must develop the habit of stopping, so take the extra five seconds to stop before entering the roadway. When children believe *they must stop before entering every roadway*, it will help to prevent their running suddenly into



streets. Some parents find it helpful to use a hand signal (a slight squeeze) to tell their youngster where and when to stop.

When children learn to stop before entering the street, they must then learn to look for approaching vehicles. They must actually determine the vehicle's direction of travel—toward or away from them. Stooping or kneeling beside your child so that your field of vision is more similar to his or hers, identify vehicles as coming toward or going away from you.

In addition, teach your child to recognize vehicles backing up. Driveways can be particularly dangerous. They are familiar places where youngsters play, yet vehicles come and go at various times. When drivers back up, they cannot see directly behind their vehicles. Young children rarely recognize the hazards of this situation. To assist your child in identifying this hazard, show your son or daughter what vehicles operating in reverse gear look like. Actually listen to the car's engine starting. Identify the exhaust coming out of the tail pipe. Point out the back-up lights. Explain that when the back-up lights come on, it means that the driver is going to back up. Continue by explaining that when a car or truck is backing up your child must move out of its way quickly.

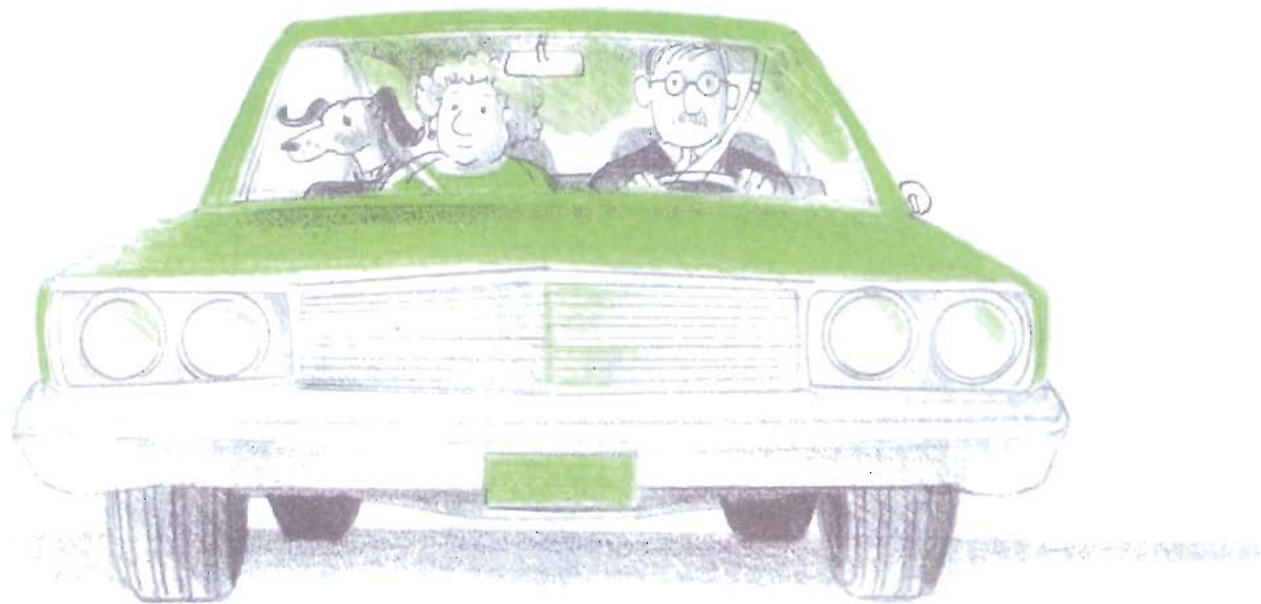




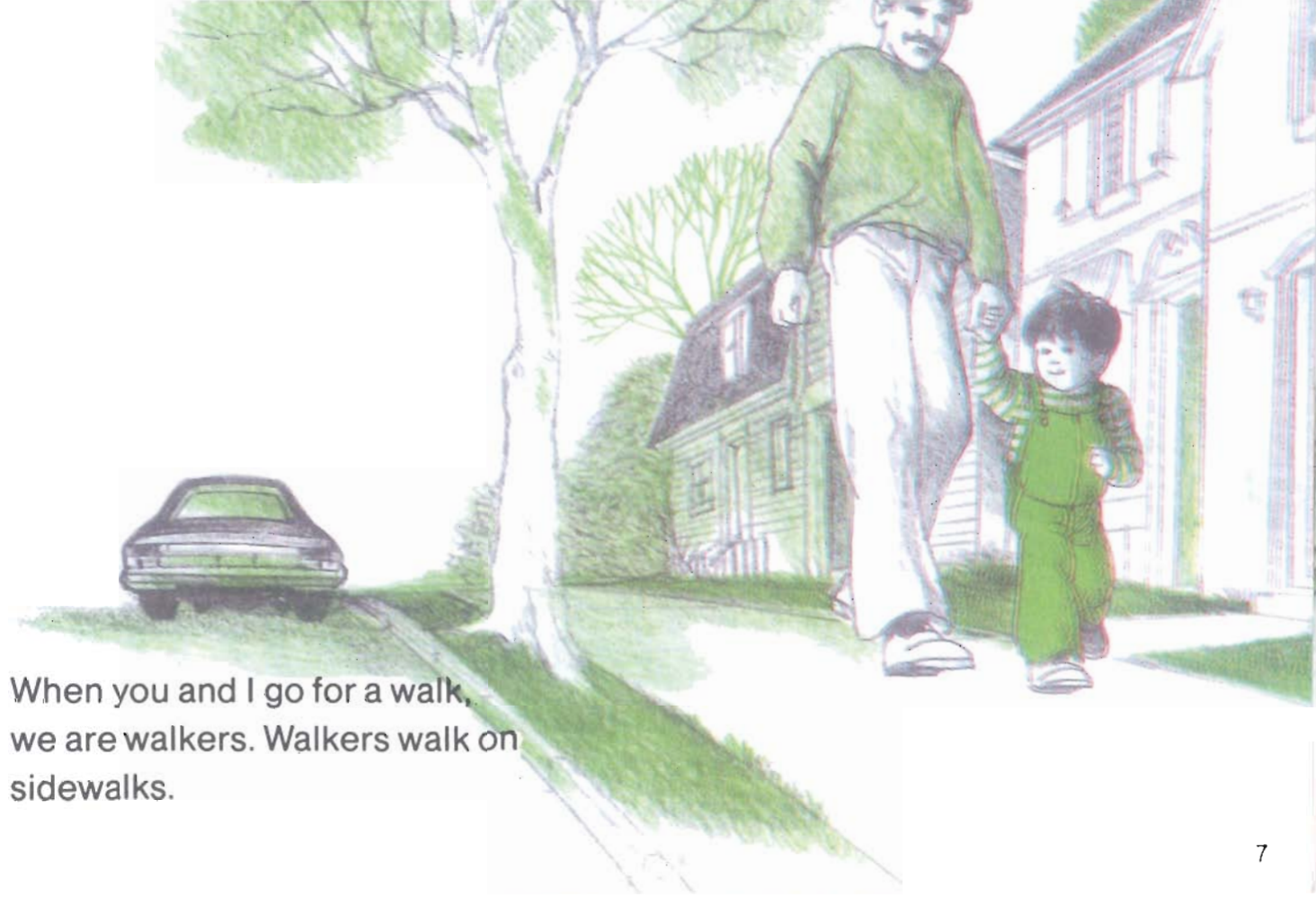
When I am outside, I play in the yard.
I stay away from the street unless someone is with me.



Cars drive on the street. Children play in yards.



People who drive cars are drivers.
People who ride in cars are riders.



When you and I go for a walk,
we are walkers. Walkers walk on
sidewalks.



Some streets have curbs.

The curb is between the yard and the street.

The yard is for walkers.

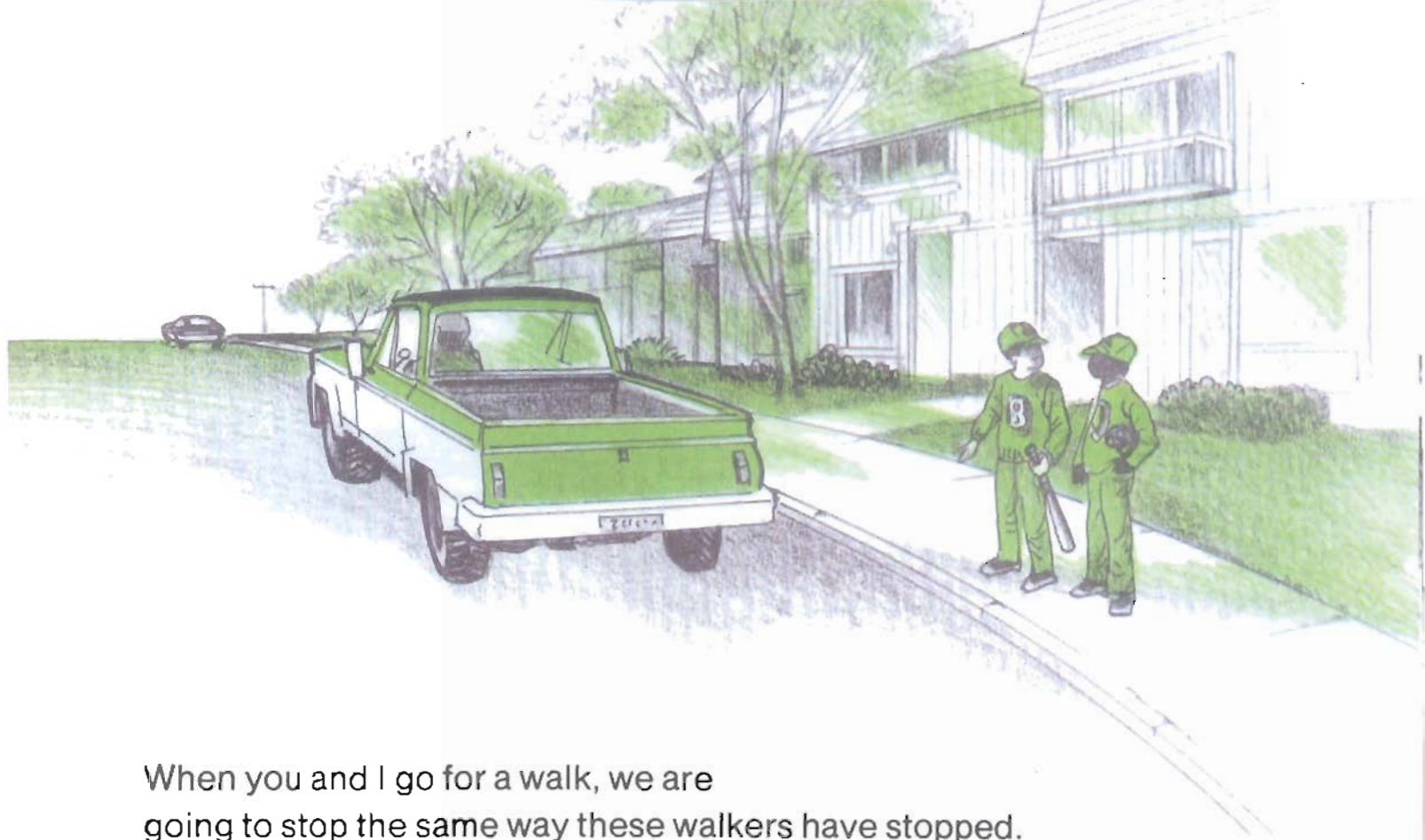
The street is for cars. The grass is for walkers.



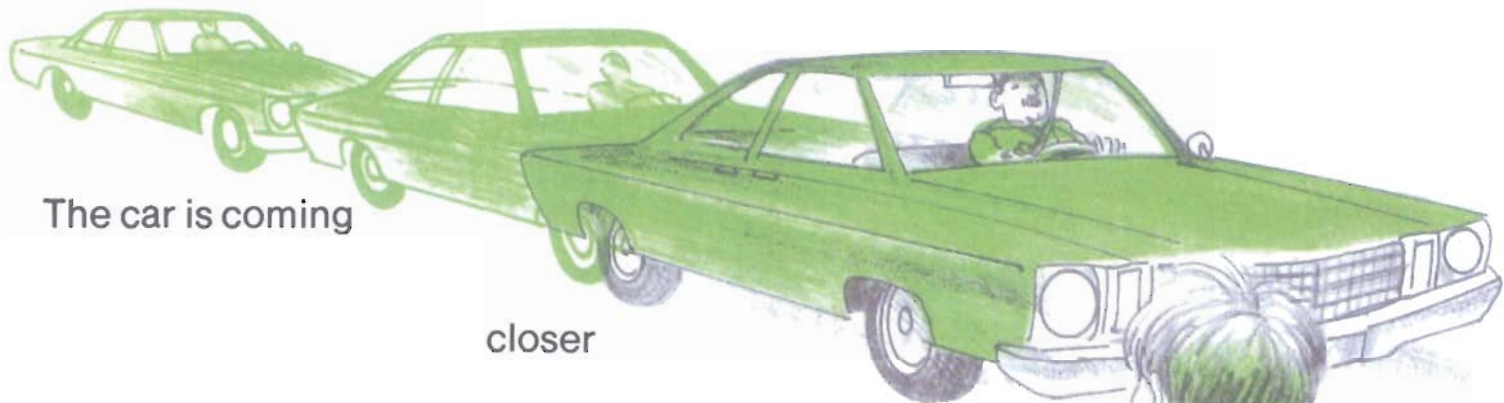
Sometimes there are no sidewalks or curbs.
When there are no sidewalks, we walk next to the street.
We never walk in the street. Cars drive there!



We must always *stop* before we cross any street.
We stop before we come to the edge of a street.
We stand beside the street to look for cars,
trucks or buses coming toward us.



When you and I go for a walk, we are going to stop the same way these walkers have stopped.

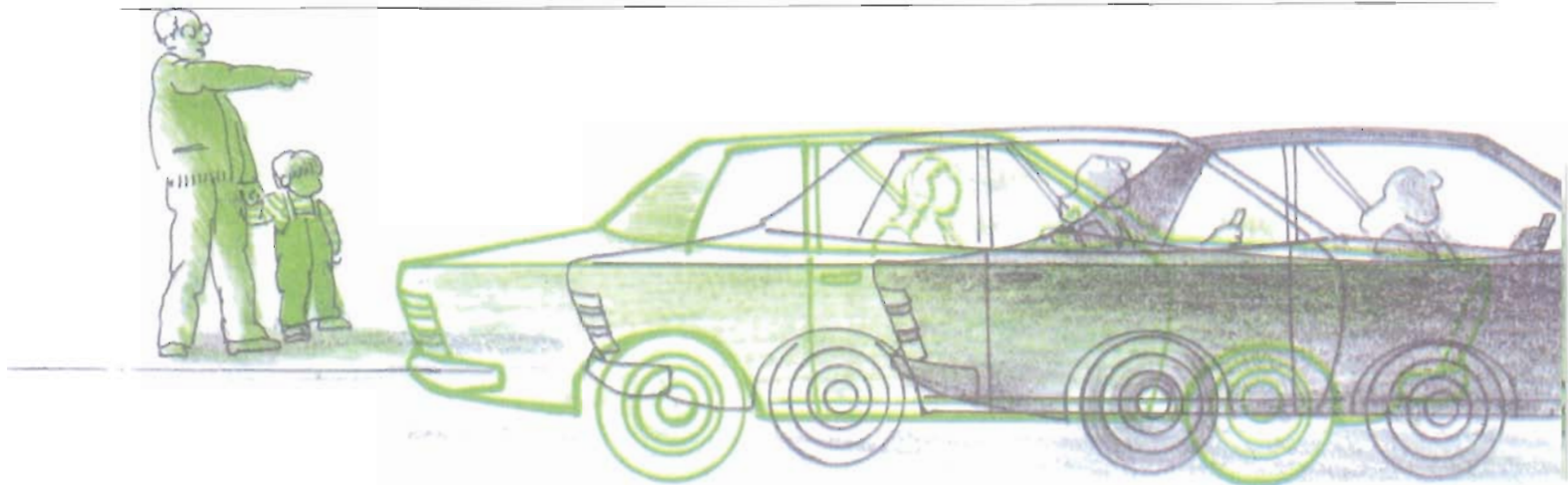


The car is coming

closer

closer..

When a car is coming, it moves toward me.
I can see the driver's face.

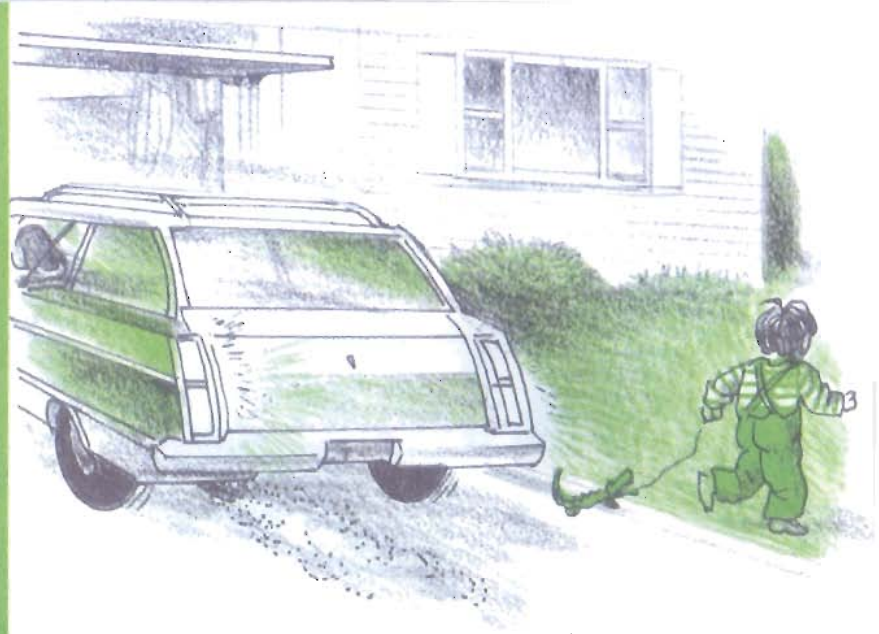
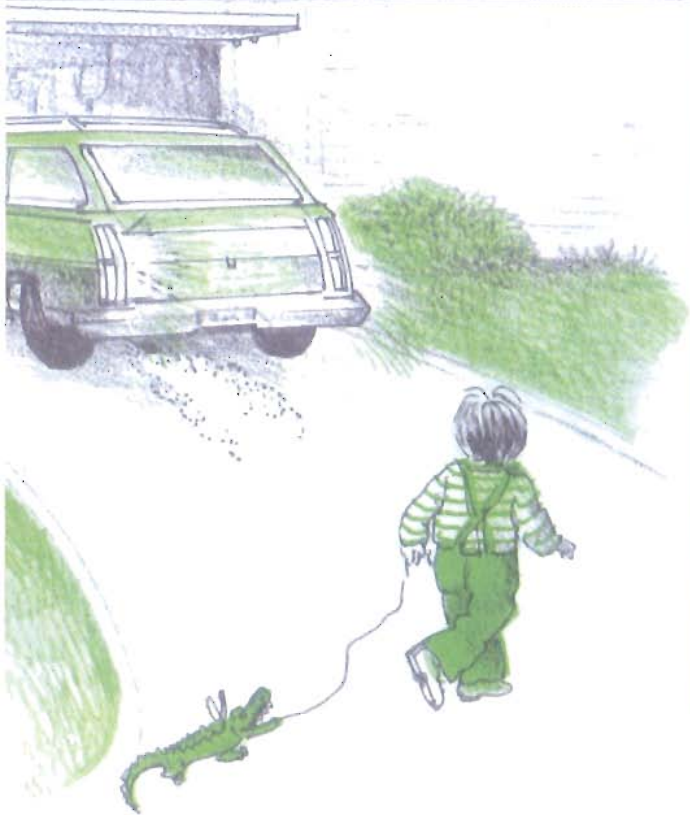


The car is going

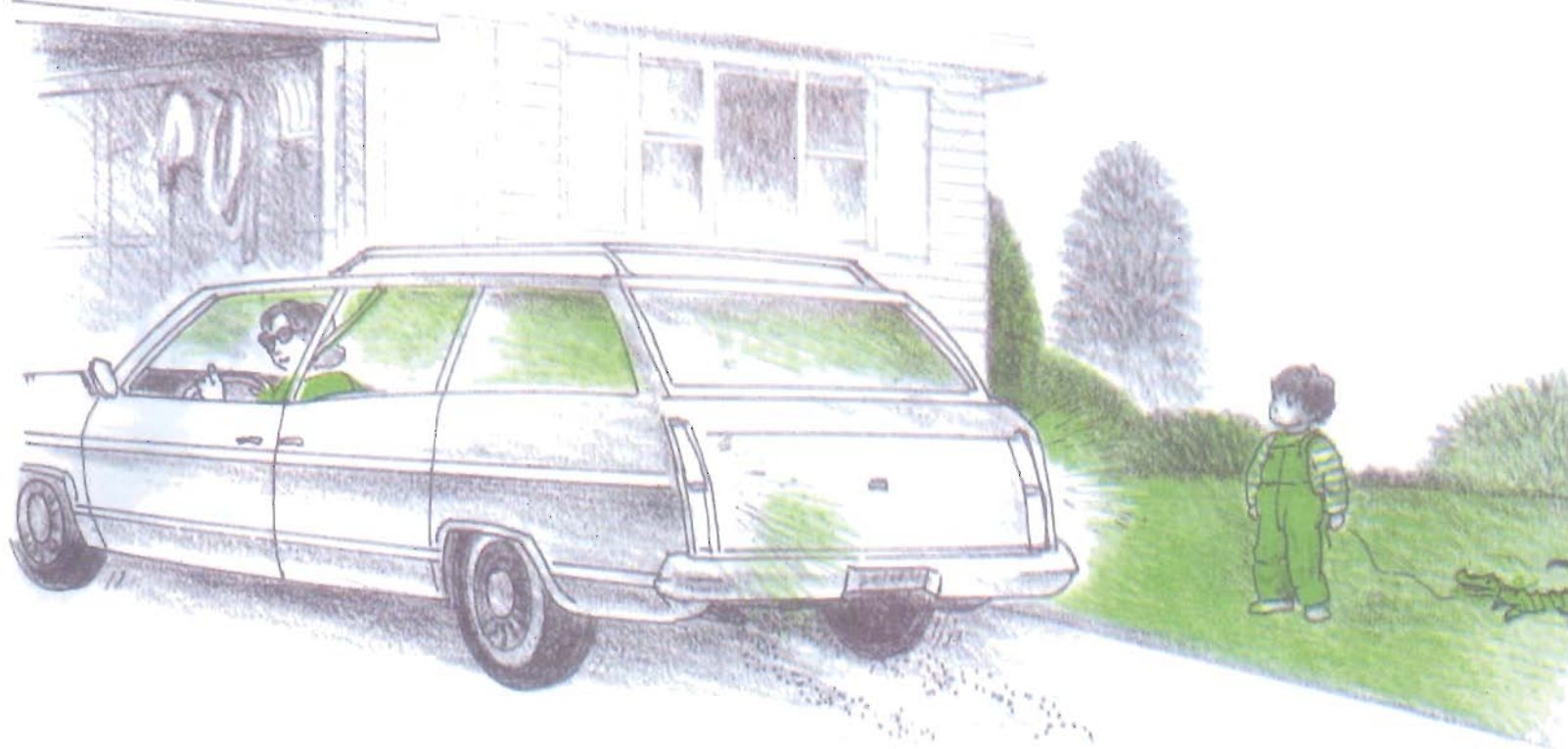
going

gone.

Cars move two ways. They can come toward me or go away from me.



When a car is in the driveway, drivers may have to drive their car backward.



If I am behind a car that is backing, I must move quickly out of its way. The driver cannot see me.

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



Art and design by Gloria Kamen
Printed in U.S.A.