

Parents: Avoid Becoming A Traffic Hazard



With the school being the central point of focus for the arrival and departure of hundreds of students, cars, buses and other vehicles, it is critical for every motorist to take extra precautions. School administrators, teachers, police officials, crossing guards and parents have all witnessed dangerous behaviors by drivers near schools. Everyone needs to do their part in keeping school communities safe.

Listed below are actual examples of parents being serious traffic hazards:

- Double-parking a vehicle in a school zone.
- Calling a child to cross the street in the middle of the block while waiting in the car.
- Blocking traffic in a school zone while dropping off or picking up a child.
- Allowing a child to exit the car into traffic rather than on the sidewalk side of the car.
- Stopping a car in a crosswalk, blocking visibility for children and other motorists.
- Driving beside the bus, sounding the horn and requesting the bus driver to stop, so that a forgotten item could be delivered to a child.
- Illegally passing a loading or unloading school bus.

For our children's sake, please be responsible and use good judgment!



A LEADER IN TRAFFIC SAFETY

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*In 2004, nearly one-fifth of all children ages 5 to 9 who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians.**

If you drive your children to and from school, these suggestions can minimize traffic hazards for all children:

- Carpool with neighbors to reduce the number of cars at the school or bus stop especially in bad weather.
- Accompany your child as he or she crosses the street. Do not make your child cross the street in a dangerous way just because it's more convenient for you.
- Drop children off on the school side of the street.
- Never double park and do not let your child out of the vehicle that is not next to the curb.
- Follow your school's traffic pattern for drop-off and pick-up. If your school does not have a plan, contact school officials and suggest that one be developed.
- Reduce your speed when you enter a school zone, or where children walk or bike along the road.
- Train your child to look all ways (left, right, behind, and ahead) and to walk cautiously when crossing the street. Stress the importance of always using crosswalks.
- Both adults and children should follow instructions provided by school crossing guards.
- Make sure children wear seat belts or are appropriately secured in a child safety or booster seat when riding in a car.

By following these simple recommendations, parents can help keep children safe.

*NHTSA National Center for Statistics and Analysis

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