

- Have a “Safe House” on your route to school or home in case of emergencies. This can be a store or a friend’s house.
- Know where the nearest “Emergency Call Boxes” are located. These are easily identifiable by their blue light at the top of a red pole. These emergency phones connect directly to the police department and located at certain intersections throughout the city.
- If you ride a bicycle to school, make sure to lock it!
- Obey crossing guards and only cross when instructed to do so.
- Always enter and exit a car from the side next to the curb.
- Before crossing any street, watch for cars. Look left, right, then left again.
- Obey all traffic signals and signs.



Working Together

Safety for our children is everyone’s responsibility. Working together will help reduce the congestion around schools and safeguard our children.



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EMERGENCY
9-1-1



Traffic Safety Around Schools

Safety Guidelines for Parents and Children

This brochure is provided by the

South Pasadena Police Department
 Crime Prevention Unit

Joe Ortiz
 Chief of Police

Children and Traffic can be a Dangerous Mix.

It is the beginning of a new school year and children are excited about starting school.



Unfortunately, parents often rush to get their children to school on time or to pick them up and are often faced with heavy traffic around the school campus. Some parents add to the problem by double parking while dropping off and picking up their children. Children also add to this problem by running across streets instead of using crosswalks while others ride bicycles or skateboards weaving their way through traffic.

This happens each year and an increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic is expected as more children attend schools. This increase creates a potential for more hazards for parents and children alike.



Traffic Congestion

Traffic congestion is most often caused by parents double parking, blocking visibility for children and other motorists. When drivers and

children cannot see each other, accidents are more likely to occur.

Parents often drop off and pick up their children across the street from the school campus. Instead of walking to a crosswalk, some students cross the busy street to get to school or get to their parent's car. Some parents also stop in a lane of traffic, expecting their children to get out of the car and run to the sidewalk. These dangerous habits are even more serious on rainy days.

For several days at the beginning of each school year, the South Pasadena Police Department has police officers at each school to remind parents and children to obey all traffic laws. Violations are strictly enforced and tickets are routinely issued. Officers will make periodic checks of the schools for traffic violations throughout the year

Tips for Parents

Parents can help reduce the number of traffic hazards around the schools by following these tips:

- *If you live close to school, consider allowing your child to walk or bicycle to school with friends. Never let your child walk alone.*



- *Be sure you know the route that your child takes to and from school. Point out any traffic hazards along the way.*
- *Be sure your child wears a helmet when riding a bicycle.*
- *Arrange a specific place to meet your children.*
- *Always drop off and pick up your child at the curb.*
- *If you drive your child to school, consider carpooling with neighbors to reduce the number of cars around the campus.*
- *Obey all traffic laws. Remember that the speed limit is 25 mph in a school zone.*
- *Do not double park and allow your child to exit or enter your vehicle. This is not only against the law, it is very dangerous as other motorists may not see your child.*

Tips for Children

Children can also help to stay safe by following these safety tips:



- *Never walk alone to school or home and never take shortcuts.*
- *Plan your walking or cycling route to and from school with your parents.*
- *Only cross the street at marked crosswalks.*