

CHILD SAFETY TIPS: School Bus Safety

Motorists and School Bus Safety:

- All drivers moving in either direction on a two-way street must stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal, and must remain stopped until the road is clear of children AND the school bus stop arm is withdrawn.
- On a highway divided by a paved median, all drivers moving in either direction must stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal, and must remain stopped until the road is clear of children AND the school bus stop arm is withdrawn.
- On a highway divided by a raised barrier or an unpaved median at least 5 feet wide, drivers moving in the opposite direction do not have to stop for the bus (painted lines or pavement markings are not considered barriers). However, these motorists should slow down and watch for students loading or unloading from the bus.
- Be alert and watch for children especially near schools, bus stops, school buses and in school parking lots.
- Pay extra attention to lower speed limits in school zones.
- Watch for and obey signals from school crossing guards.
- Only drive or park in authorized areas to drop off or pick up children at school.

Safety on the Bus:

- Know your bus driver's name and bus number.
- Remain seated at all times and keep the aisle clear.
- Don't put your head, hands or arms out the window.
- Stop talking and remain silent when the bus comes to a railroad crossing so the driver can hear if a train is approaching.
- Avoid any loud or disruptive behavior that could distract the bus driver from safely operating the bus.



Safety at the Bus Stop:

- Arrive at the bus stop about five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Never sit on the roadway or the curb while waiting for your bus; wait in a safe place away from the road.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop or get into a car with a stranger. Always tell your parents, the bus driver and a teacher at school if a stranger tries to talk to you or pick you up.
- When the bus stops, wait for the driver's signal that it is safe to cross the road or board the bus.
- If crossing the street, look left, right and left again. Make eye contact and make sure your bus driver can see you as you cross the street.
- Never walk behind the school bus and stay away from the bus wheels at all times.

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CHILD SAFETY TIPS: Safety Belts and Child Restraints

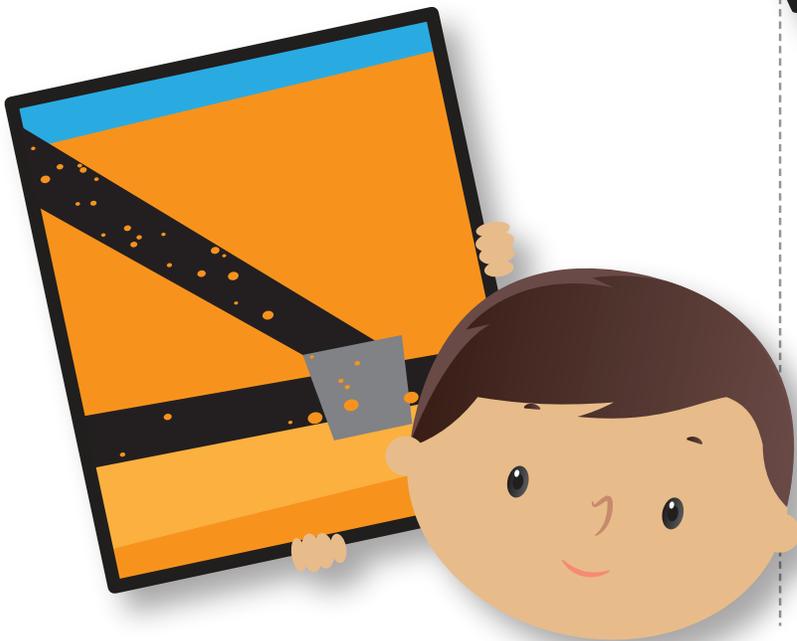
Safety Belts:

- A safety belt is your vehicle's best safety feature. But, it only works if you use it.
- Florida's Safety Belt Law requires that the driver, all passengers in the front seat and all children under the age of 18 wear a safety belt (or child restraint device).
- Florida's Safety Belt Law is a primary enforcement law, meaning that an officer can stop a vehicle and issue a citation simply for observing a safety belt violation.
- Encourage everyone in the vehicle to buckle up, including those in the back seat.



Child Restraints:

- Florida law requires children aged 5 and under to be secured by properly using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device.
- Florida law requires children aged 4 and 5 to be secured in a separate carrier, an integrated child seat or a child booster seat.
- Follow your car seat manufacturer's instructions and your vehicle owner's manual on how to install and properly use the car seat.
- Make sure the car seat is the right fit for your child and the vehicle and that it can be installed and used correctly every time.



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CHILD SAFETY TIPS: Driveway Safety

Driveway Safety:

- Discourage children from playing in driveways and designate safe play areas away from vehicles.
- If children play in the driveway, have an adult supervise at all times.
- Teach children to never play inside, on, around or under vehicles.
- Keep vehicles in driveways/garages locked and store keys out of children's reach.
- Keep toys, bicycles, etc. off the driveway.

Backing Out:

- When backing in and out of a driveway, make sure all children are safe and accounted for.
- Walk around and check behind your vehicle before you get in.
- Whenever possible, use a person outside the vehicle to help you back up.
- Check your rearview and side mirrors. Roll down your windows to listen for children/pedestrians.
- Place your right arm on the back of the seat and turn around so that you can look directly through the rear window.
- Back slowly and check the path repeatedly.
- Bicyclists often ride on sidewalks so look both ways before backing over a sidewalk.
- Children on bicycles can be unpredictable and can make sudden changes in direction. Be especially careful when children are present (school zones and residential areas).
- Florida Law states that the driver of a vehicle shall not back up unless such movement can be made with safety and without interfering with other traffic.
- Prevention of backing crashes is what it's about, so TAKE A SECOND LOOK if you have any doubt!



Blind Spots:

- All vehicles have blind zones/blind spots.
- Get to know a vehicle's blind spots.
- Typically, the larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spots; blind spots are often larger for shorter drivers.
- Blind spots can be affected by the size and shape of vehicle mirrors and windows, elevation of driver's seat and slope of driveway.
- Keep your windows and mirrors clean. Never back a vehicle when the rear window or any mirrors are covered with dirt or any other substances.

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CHILD SAFETY TIPS: Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Bicycle Safety:

- Make sure all equipment on the bicycle is in working order (brakes, gears, tires, etc.).
- All bicycle riders and passengers under age 16 are required by Florida Law to wear a helmet. Always wear a properly fitted helmet and securely fasten the strap.
- Wear appropriate shoes (such as sneakers). Avoid wearing flip-flops or riding barefoot.
- Be seen. Wear neon or fluorescent or bright colors when riding and wear something that reflects light (reflective shoes, reflective tape, etc.).
- Do not wear headphones so that you can hear the traffic and pedestrians around you.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic and stay as far to the right as possible. Use bike lanes whenever you can.
- Obey all traffic laws when riding on the roadway. If crossing a roadway upon or along a crosswalk, abide by pedestrian crossing guidelines.
- Never text and ride.
- If riding between the hours of sunset and sunrise, Florida Law requires that the front of the bike be equipped with a lamp which exhibits a white light visible for 500 ft, and the rear of the bike be equipped with a lamp and reflector visible for 600 ft.
- Cross at intersections and never enter the roadway from between parked cars.
- If riding on the sidewalk or in a crosswalk, yield to pedestrians and give them an audible signal (such as, "passing on your left") before overtaking and passing them.
- Refer to the official Florida Driver License Handbook (www.flsmv.gov/handbook) for more information.



Pedestrian Safety:

- Walk on the sidewalk if there is one. If no sidewalks are present, walk against the direction of traffic so that you can see oncoming vehicles.
- Cross the roadway at corners or in crosswalks. Always watch for traffic when crossing the street.
- Never enter the roadway from between parked cars. If crossing mid-block cannot be avoided, pedestrians must yield right of way to vehicles on the roadway.
- Be seen. Wear bright, reflective colors on clothes, shoes, hats and wristbands. Carry a flashlight when walking at night.
- Avoid wearing headphones so that you can hear the traffic and pedestrians around you.
- Follow pedestrian signs and signals. Pedestrians should yield right of way to vehicles if the crosswalk signal is red or "Don't Walk."
- Never text or look at your cell phone when crossing the street.

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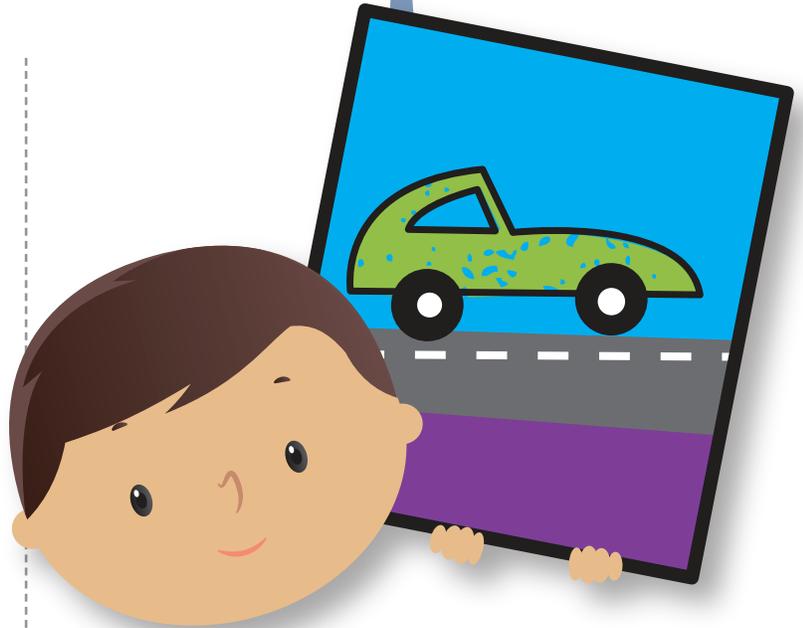
CHILD SAFETY TIPS: New Driver Tips

New Drivers:

- Always carry your driver license, proof of vehicle registration and insurance with you in the vehicle you are driving.
- Driving is a huge responsibility. In order to drive safely, you must be fully engaged with your hands on the wheel, eyes on the road and mind on driving.
- Before you start your engine to operate your motor vehicle, put on your safety belt and make sure all passengers do the same.
- Read your Vehicle Owner's Manual. It is an excellent resource for information specific to your vehicle.
- It is important that motorists get regular vision, hearing and general physical check-ups.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs and be aware of prescription and over-the-counter medications that affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Emotions can have an effect on driving safely. Avoid driving in emotional state. Take time to calm down and get focused before driving.
- Any driver under the age of 18 who accumulates six or more driving record points within a 12 month period is automatically restricted for one year to driving for "Business Purposes ONLY."

Drivers with a Learner's License Age 15-17:

- Drivers with a learner's license must always drive accompanied by a license driver, age 21 or older, who rides in the closest seat to the right of the driver.
- Drivers with a learner's license must only drive during daylight hours during the first three months after earning a learner's license. After three months, they may drive until 10:00 p.m.
- Drivers with a learner's license must have at least 50 hours driving experience prior to getting a Class E license, and 10 of those hours should be a night.



Licensed Drivers:

- Licensed drivers age 16 must not drive between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. unless driving to or from work OR accompanied by a licensed driver who is age 21 or older.
- Licensed drivers age 17 must not drive between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. unless driving to or from work OR accompanied by a licensed driver who is age 21 or older.
- Children at least 16 years old must complete the a Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education Course, provide required identification and pass the Vision, Class E Knowledge and Driving Skills exams prior to obtaining a driver license.
- Children at least 15 years old must complete the Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education Course and pass the Vision and Class E Knowledge exam prior to obtaining a learner's license.

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