



From a Child's Perspective: Principles Behind Child Pedestrian Injury

1.	Young children are less likely to take notice of objects that are not directly in front of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless they deliberately turn their heads, they may not notice vehicles on the left or right. • Looking behind is essential behavior when at intersections. • It is essential that children practice the look behind-left-right-left road safety strategy and understand the reason for the sequence for most road crossings.
2.	Children have difficulty judging the speed of approaching traffic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may wait for a slow car but cross in front of a fast one. • This behavior is related to the size and sound of a vehicle. • Small vehicles are perceived as being far away and large vehicles are thought to be closer.
3.	Young children often have difficulty judging the direction from which sound is coming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may expect traffic to come from a different direction.
4.	Because children are small, they often cannot see over parked vehicles or roadside shrubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This also means that motorists cannot see them.
5.	Children have a short attention span and attend to those sights and sounds that interest them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This inconsistency of behavior is also influenced by interaction with others.
6.	Children behave spontaneously, based on impulse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children can be unpredictable. • Their high activity level and developing coordination increases this problem. The result is that if moving quickly, they may not be able to stop quickly in an emergency.

Source: *Let's Walk Together! Walking School Bus Training Manual Resources*, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.