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.**
   - 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.**
   - 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.**
   - 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.**
   - 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.**
   - This inconsistency of behavior is also influenced by interaction with others.

6. **Children behave spontaneously, based on impulse.**
   - 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.*