Children imitate and model their behavior after adults, so your actions as a “walking school bus” leader speak louder than your words.

8 Steps for Walking Safely

1. Teach by example. Look both ways before crossing; cross at crosswalks; obey traffic signals; and wear light-colored or retro-reflective materials.

2. Use hand-held stop signs or body language and whistles to stop traffic before allowing children to cross a street.

3. Recognize that children have trouble judging traffic speed, gaps in traffic, and stopping distances.

4. Include at least 2 adults in each “walking school bus” whenever possible, with 1 adult behind the children and 1 adult in front.

5. Explain the reasons for safety rules. For example, “We are walking facing traffic so we can see the cars.”

6. Keep children together and prevent horseplay by providing a rope for them to hold.

7. Engage children with games and activities that focus their eyes on the street.

8. Teach older children to help supervise younger children, especially when crossing streets.