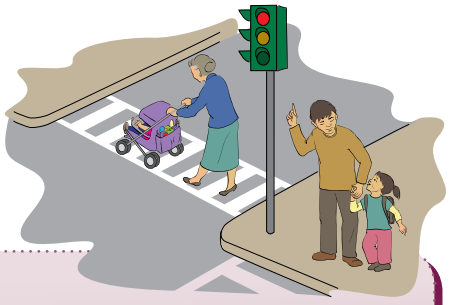
Safety and Protection: Street, Car and Taxi Safety Tip Sheet

For Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS); Refugee Resettlement; Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS); Early Care and Education Providers

All providers can support families by offering information on how to provide street and vehicle safety for their young children. This Tip Sheet on Street and Transportation Safety corresponds to page 10 and 11 of the Raising Young Children in a New Country: Supporting Early Learning and Healthy Development Handbook.

Conversation Starters: *(or staff, families, and partners can design program-specific questions)*

- Tell me about what the transportation was like where you lived in your home country. How did you and your children get around?
- What types of transportation do you use now in the US?
- What dangers do you see for your child around the streets or when using cars or other types of transportation in this country?
- How do you keep your child safe?



Cultural Considerations:

- In the U.S. and in other countries, people use different types of transportation depending on their age, gender, religion, economic resources, and whether they live in rural or urban areas. Use the above questions to explore and learn more about families' experiences, beliefs, and practices around transportation and street safety.
- The use of car seats and seat belts may be unfamiliar for some families. Safety practices such as all children riding in the back seat and limiting passengers to the number of seatbelts may take time to get used to, but are required by U.S. law.
- Street and pedestrian signs often differ internationally so refugees may not understand them immediately in the US. Some signs also require the ability to read English.
- Families should be informed that repeated or serious vehicle law violations, such as driving under the influence of alcohol or another substance, could affect their adjustment to U.S. permanent resident status or citizenship.

Remember to Mention:

- Teach children habits that help them stay safe
  - As a pedestrian, young children can learn to read traffic light signals, always cross the street with an adult, use crosswalks, and wait for adult help if a ball or toy goes into the street.
  - As a passenger, children can learn to always use a car seat when younger and a seat belt when older.
  - When riding a bicycle or scooter, children can learn to always wear a helmet.
- Leaving children unattended in a car, even for a few minutes, can endanger their lives and health, due to:
  - Heatstroke, since temperatures inside cars can quickly reach over 100 degrees Fahrenheit on warm days, and children are more susceptible to heat than adults.
  - Accidentally setting a car in motion.
  - Getting caught in power windows.

- Parents can learn about local child vehicle restraint laws as well as cellphone use and texting restrictions while driving; and they can model consistent behavior for children in following these laws.
- Car seats can save a child's life and are required by law for young children.
  - The type of car seat needed varies by the age and size of the child.
  - Car seats must be installed correctly and should always be placed in the back seat.
  - Free local inspection stations can provide assistance with car seats installation.

Applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards:

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/hspps/1310

45 CFR1310.21 Safety Education (a)(b)(c)(e)

Resources on ECKLC:

National Center of Health

- Transportation Safety.

  http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/center/safety-injury-prevention/transportation-safety

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

- Safety and Prevention.

  http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/for-families/Safe%20and%20Healthy%20Family