



Parking Lot Safety



Time: 25 - 50 minutes

Studies have demonstrated that skill-building activities are the most effective way to promote child retention of pedestrian safety skills. Lesson objectives set the stage for building safety skills, which are emphasized through children's participation in class activities. More time can be spent on practicing skills if children are already familiar with the core material. This curriculum does not cover every possible scenario that a child may encounter as a pedestrian but instead addresses the basic skills needed to be a safe pedestrian. Instructors should use their discretion to break up material to accommodate their daily schedules.

Lesson Objectives

The objective of this lesson is to teach children how to navigate a parking lot. Parking lots can be dangerous because they are one place where pedestrians and vehicles share the same space. Drivers are often preoccupied with finding a parking space and are not paying attention to pedestrians. At this age, it is important to emphasize that children should never navigate parking lots without the assistance of an adult.

The children will be able to:

- Demonstrate safe behaviors for entering and exiting a vehicle.
- Demonstrate safe behavior for walking safely in a parking lot.

Why This Lesson is Important

How many times a day does a child perform the act of opening a car door? A goal of this unit is to teach good passenger behavior when entering and exiting a vehicle as well as what to do when in a parking lot. Children encounter parking lots whether running errands with family members, at school, or other functions. School parking lots can be incredibly busy places in the morning when children arrive and in the afternoon when it's dismissal time. Understanding the dangers and the ability to behave safely in parking lots should be developed at a young age.

Essential Standards

| | |
|---|---|
| PE.K.PR.4.1: Use basic strategies and concepts for working cooperatively in group settings. K.C&G.1.1: Exemplify positive relationships through fair play and friendship. K.ML.1.3: Execute simple rhythms using body, instruments, or voice. | PE.1.PR.4.1: Use basic strategies and concepts for working cooperatively in group settings. 1.C&G.1.1: Explain why rules are needed in the home, school and community. 1.ML.1.3: Execute rhythmic patterns using body, instruments, or voice. |
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Common Core

| | |
|---|---|
| CCSS.Math.Content.K.CC.B.4: Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality. CCSS.Math.Content.K.MD.B.3: Classify objects into given categories; count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count. | CCSS.Math.Content.1.OA.A.1: Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem. |
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Guidance

| |
|---|
| RED.SE.1.1: Understand the importance of self-control and responsibility. RED.C.2.1: Identify situations from your daily life in terms of problems and solution strategies. EEE.SE.1.2: Illustrate personal responsibility in a variety of settings and situations. P.S.E.1.1: Identify how to set boundaries that maintain personal rights while paying attention to the rights of others. P.SE.1.2: Use self-determination to build independence. |
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Parking Lot Safety

Materials

- Vocabulary Cards
- A large area to create a model parking lot
- Masking tape, rope, chairs (16-24), or other material to create a model parking lot
- Parent/Caregiver Tip Sheet
- Child Assessment – Worksheet
- Child Assessment – Instructor Question and Answer Key

Vocabulary

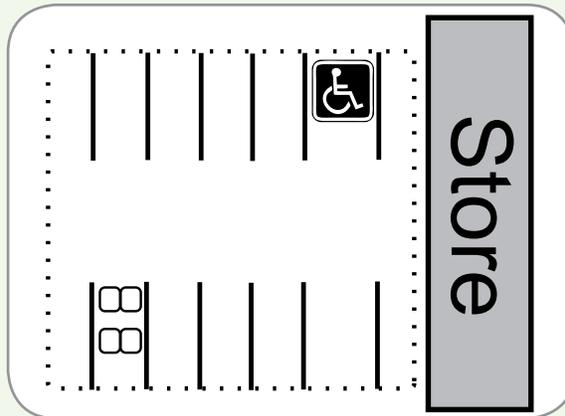
(Cards with picture and definition located at the end of this lesson)

- Back-up lights

Preparation

You will need to arrange several chairs into groups of four to simulate cars. Use tape, rope, or other materials to simulate the parking spaces between the cars. You can also create a store front using large boxes or rope. Designate one space as a Handicapped space.

Example:



Review the Skill-Building Activity options in advance and conduct a site visit to determine the best parking lot scenario. If required, a Sample Parent Notification Letter and Consent form is included in Appendix C. The instructor may need parents or other adults on hand to assist with the Skill-Building Activity, depending on the number and abilities of children in your class. Coordinate with assistants in advance. Review the **Parking Lot Safety** Video.

Part 1 – Discussion and Demonstration



► **Time:** 15-20 minutes

1. **Exit the Car Carefully**
2. **Wait by the Car for the Adult**
3. **Walk Safely**
4. **Crossing the Lot and Re-Entering the Car**

Introduction

The instructor will...

- Define and discuss traffic in parking lots.
- Emphasize the importance of crossing the parking lot with an adult.
- Discuss safety rules for maneuvering within a parking lot.

Today, we are going to learn how to cross a parking lot safely.

Raise your hand if you have ever been nervous when you have crossed a parking lot.

Parking lots are special places that can be very dangerous if we are not careful. They are places where drivers can park and leave their cars while they do other things, such as eat in a restaurant, shop in stores, and pick up books at a library.

Parking lots can be very busy. We can see many types of vehicles in a parking lot such as buses, motorcycles, bicycles, and cars. Many vehicles will be moving around, and some drivers may not see you or may forget to pay attention to you as you are walking. People your size are often small and cannot be seen behind parked cars. Let's talk more about what you should do to always be safe in a parking lot.

Let's pretend that this is a large parking lot. The chairs grouped together are cars. The lines show where the parking spaces might be. The large boxes over there are the store that I want to visit.

As we talk about how to stay safe in the parking lot, I'm going to show you what you should do.

1. Exit the Car Carefully

When the driver of your car has found a safe place to park in a parking lot, you are going to first wait for the driver to say it is OK before you get out of the car.

Wait for the driver to help you out of your booster seat or car seat. Do not try to get out of the seat by yourself.

If you can, get out of the car on the same side as the driver. You may have to scoot across the seat to get to the same side, but you will be near them at all times. That way you are sure to be safe.

Watch as I slide from my seat in the back to the side where the driver exited the car. I will ask the driver if it is safe to get out. When the driver says it is safe, I step out slowly, keeping my body close to the car. I am right next to the driver and safe!

[Instructor demonstrates.]



If you cannot get out of the driver's side of the car, again ask the driver first if it is safe for you to get out. Drivers are tall, and they can see other cars more clearly. Do not jump out of the car. Wait for the driver to come around and help you out. When the driver tells you it is safe, step out slowly, keeping your body close to the car.

Watch as I show you how to exit the car if you cannot get out on the driver's side.
[Instructor demonstrates.]

2. Wait by the Car for the Adult

Once you have exited the car, wait for the driver. Immediately take the driver's hand.

Do not walk away from the car to get to the driver. Wait for the driver, and walk with him or her hand-in-hand.

3. Walk Safely

As you are walking in the parking lot, you need to remember the rules we have discussed before for walking near traffic.

[Instructor displays chart from Safe Behavior When Walking Near Traffic that was developed in the first lesson of unit.]

Safe Behavior When Walking Near Traffic

- Walk, don't run.
- Don't play around with friends or push.
- Stay close to a parent, adult, or older sibling.
- Stay away from cars and busy roads.
- Be aware of what's around you. Don't let toys, phones, or anything else distract you.

Because I am near traffic, I will follow these same rules when I am in the parking lot.

Remember, it is very difficult for drivers to see you through their back windows. As you walk, keep looking around the parking lot to see if there are cars backing out of their parking spaces (with white back-up lights on) or coming near you from any direction. If there are, FREEZE and wait with an adult until it is clear. What are back-up lights and what do they tell you?

[Display "back-up lights" vocabulary card and discuss.]

Walk with an adult on the left side of the parking row, just like we walked down the street, about 3 steps away from the car, away from the bumper. What is a bumper?

[Display "bumper" vocabulary card and discuss.]

DO NOT walk down the middle of the parking lot or too closely to the back of the cars. Drivers will not be able to see you.

Watch as I show you where to walk. Notice that I am on the left side, about three steps away from the other cars. I am walking straight, with my head up looking for traffic, holding an adult's hand, toward the store.

[Instructor demonstrates.]

In this demonstration, I am going from a car to a store. What other examples of parking lots can you think of where you would want to walk safely?

- Library, soccer field lot, school parking lot, etc.



4. Crossing the Lot and Re-Entering a Car

At the end of your trip, you and the adult will have to go back to your car. It is important that you hold the adult's hand, watch for traffic, and walk away from the car bumpers to get to your vehicle.

Watch as I demonstrate again.

[Instructor demonstrates.]

As you are walking across the parking lot, you may have a toy or other item in your hands. If you drop it while you are walking, you should NOT try to get it by yourself.

- Stay put.
- Watch where it goes without leaving the adult.
- Tell the adult where it is, and let him/her get it.

When you get back to the car, you also need to remember several ways to be safe.

- *Stay close to the car door as you wait for it to be unlocked. If you can, get in on the same side as the driver. The driver can keep an eye on you and pull you out of danger, as long as you are close.*
- *Get into the car and close the door quickly.*
- *Make sure you are buckled in safely before the driver starts the car. Tell the driver if you are not buckled in, so they know that you are not yet ready to leave.*

Watch as I show you how to safely re-enter the car and get ready to leave.

[Instructor demonstrates.]

Part 2 - Activities

► **Time:** 10-30 minutes

Skill-Building Activity Options

It is highly recommended that Instructors take children to a safe environment outdoors to reinforce the learned behaviors. Parent and other adult volunteers may be necessary to make this first-hand experience more valuable and safe for the children.

- a. Practice safe parking lot behavior on school grounds to reinforce appropriate behavior (10-20 minutes).
- b. Take a supervised walk through a nearby parking lot with parent volunteers to practice and reinforce proper walking behavior (20-30 minutes).

Have one adult and one child stand on one side of a car while the class is on the other side. Discuss who you can see the easiest and why a grown up might not see a classmate when driving in a parking lot. Discuss handicapped parking spaces.

Standby Activity Option

Use the following option if children are unable to practice skills outdoors.

- c. Dramatize safe and unsafe scenarios using the model parking lot (5-10 minutes, see sample script).

Now, it's your turn! A few of you are going to get the chance to show me how to cross the parking lot.

[Instructor will allow several children to demonstrate crossing a parking lot using the steps above. The instructor should call out what is happening in the parking lot and give the children verbal cues to help them cross safely.]

Great work! Let's practice all together by playing one of my favorite games, "Simon Says."



When I call out a key word, show me what you should be doing if you were in a parking lot.

1. Allow all children to line up in rows in front of the instructor.
2. The instructor will call out several key words for children to mime:
 - “Park” = sit in place.
 - “Exit” = freeze next to car.
 - “Walk” = look left and right as you walk in place.
 - “Vehicle” = freeze.
 - “Unlock” = open door.
 - “Enter” = sit and buckle seat belt.

Review (optional)

► **Time:** 5 minutes

The instructor will...

- Review the steps for being safe while crossing a parking lot by showing the *Let’s Go Walking!* video *Parking Lot Safety* (approx. 4 minutes) and repeating the key concepts from the lesson.

Let’s review all that we have learned today.

First, we learned how to get out and into a car safely. Remember that it is best to get into and out of a vehicle from the same side as the driver. The driver can help keep you safe this way. If you can’t do that, stay close to the car and don’t move until the driver has come to take your hand.

Then, we learned that crossing a parking lot is a lot like crossing a street or intersection. We need to hold an adult’s hand, walk, keep our head high, and look and listen for traffic as we cross the parking lot.





Suggestions for a Balanced Curriculum

Grades
K-1
Lesson 5

Parking Lot
Safety

These optional activities are included to extend the lesson into other areas of learning. Most activities presented may be completed within a 20-minute time period or may be assigned as homework opportunities.

Mathematics

Children can observe the school parking lot from a classroom window or a safe sidewalk/grassy area nearby. The instructor and children can discuss the types of transportation observed (cars, trucks, vans, buses, bicycles, motorcycles, convertibles, etc.).

Create a Pictograph

The instructor and children can count the number different types of vehicles in the parking lot and at the bike rack (if there is one). Have children represent this data in the form of a pictograph to demonstrate the vehicles present. Have them include a key. Include a set of questions for the children to answer, using the following as a starting point:

- Which category has the fewest number of vehicles?
- How many more cars are there than trucks?
- How many vehicles are there total?

Arts Education - Music

Teacher and Children can sing the “Parking Lot” song and demonstrate actions while singing, if appropriate.

“Parking Lot” Song

Sung to the tune of “Three Blind Mice”

Parking lot, parking lot
Watch for cars, watch for trucks
First exit the car and stand beside
Wait for adults who can help as your guide
Then take their hand and walk safely inside
From the parking lot
From the parking lot.

Healthful Living

Spend more time talking about people with disabilities and how access affects their ability to be a part of the community. Use the vocabulary cards from this lesson and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website to help kids go on a Mobility Quest. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/kids/mobility.html>

Through this interactive website, kids can steps to answer the questions like:

- “Can a kid in a wheelchair be an athlete?”
- “Can kids with disabilities access and get around my school?”

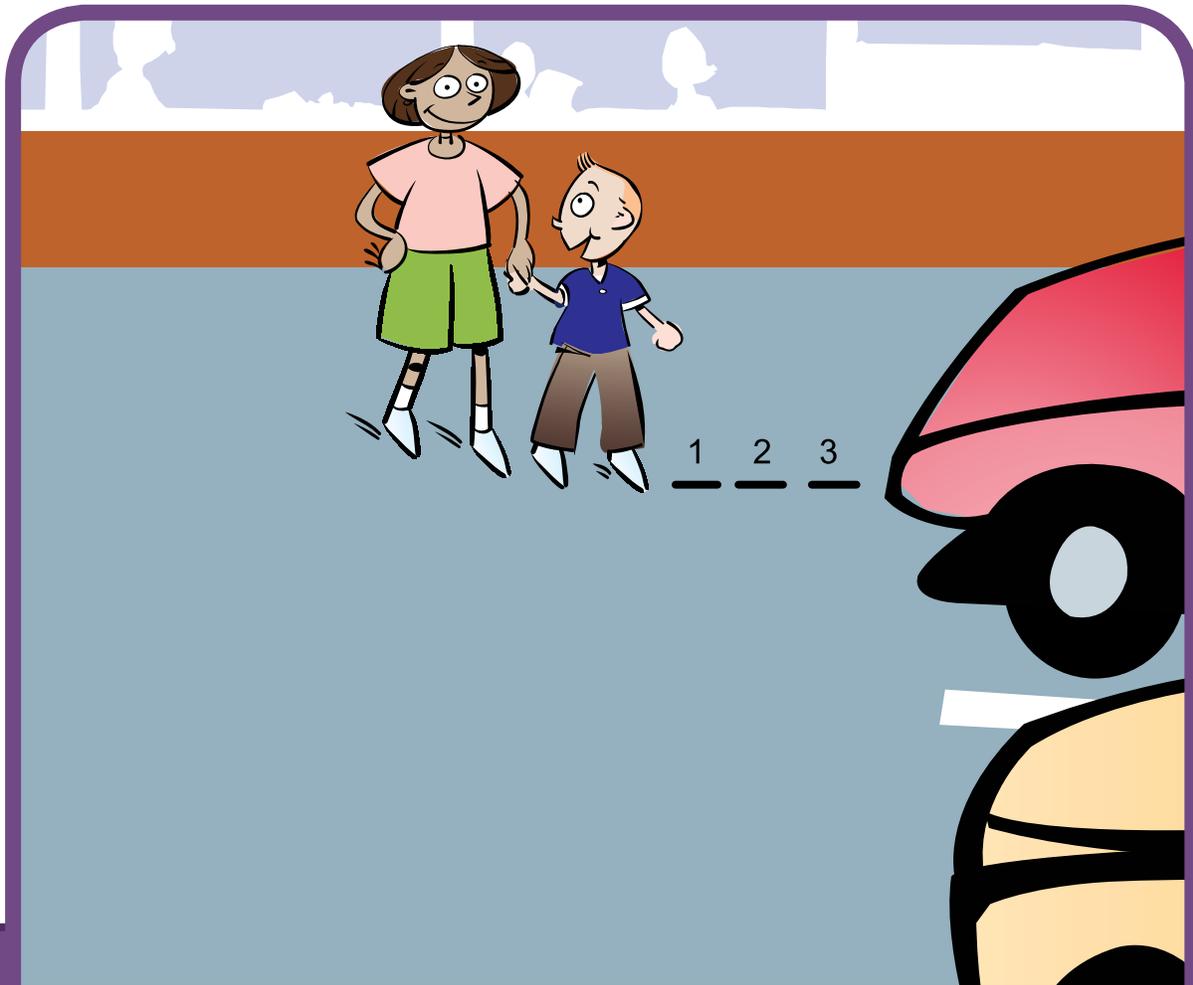
Vocabulary Card



Back-up lights

These are the white lights on the back of a vehicle that come on when the vehicle is backing up.

Situation Card



Stay 3 Steps Away from Car Bumpers



Parking Lot Safety

This week in school your child learned ...

How to behave safely in parking lots:

1. **PARKING LOTS** are places where people leave their cars, trucks, or bicycles when they are not in use.
2. **WAIT** for an adult to open the car door to let you out.
3. **STAY 3 STEPS AWAY** from car bumpers.
4. **STOP** if you see white back-up light on and wait for driver to pull out.
5. **STAY CLOSE** to the adult at all times. Adults are more visible than children.
6. **WALK, DON'T RUN** when moving in parking lots.
7. **RE-ENTER** the car on the same side as the driver.
8. **FREEZE** if you drop something. Ask an adult to get it for you.



Remember:

Although you might be able to quickly see that it is safe to cross the road or how to walk through a parking lot, your child may not know or understand why it is safe. Help your child understand and learn safe behaviors by practicing them each time you walk in parking lots.

Looking at the picture, ask your children to walk you through the steps for getting out of a car and into the store safely. Ask them where they should walk in relation to cars and what to do if they drop a toy while walking.

Did you know?

Children's ability to understand and make decisions about their safety changes as they grow and develop their children.

Children in kindergarten and first grade:

- Controlling impulses and concentrating,
- Judging when it is safe to cross the street,
- Staying focused on one task, such as safely crossing the road, and
- Understanding the differences between safe and unsafe crossings.

PRACTICE AT HOME!

Parking Lot Safety

The best way for children to learn is by repeating safe parking lot behavior with an adult. As your child grows, revisit these safety concepts often to make sure he or she is still practicing safe pedestrian behavior.

Ask your child what a parking lot is before you reach your destination.

- Parking lots are places where people leave their cars, trucks, or bicycles when they are not in use.

Ask your child how to safely get out of the car. Do you open the door and jump out?

- No! Wait for an adult. Adults are taller and easier for drivers to see than children.
- Ask the adult if it is safe to get out of the car.
- When the adult says, “Yes,” take the adult’s hand and get out of the car.
- Get out of the car on the same side as the adult. If a child must exit the opposite side, stay close to the car and wait for an adult.

Ask your child how to safely walk around in parking lots.

- Use the same skills that you learned for crossing streets safely:
- Look left-right-left to check for cars before leaving the parking space.
- When there are no cars coming, walk (don’t run) with the adult.

When walking in the parking lot remember to:

- Keep 3 big steps away from the car bumper.
- When white back-up lights are on, stop before you get behind the car, and wait for the driver to pull out.
- Stay close to the adult at all times.
- Always walk, never run through parking lots.

Ask your child what to do if they drop something and it rolls away.

- Tell the adult, and ask the adult to get it for you.

Ask your child how to safely re-enter the car.

- Get in on the same side as the driver.
- Scoot to your seat inside the car.
- Buckle up.

Repeat the lessons every chance you get!





Consejos para Padres/Cuidador Principal

La seguridad en los estacionamientos

Esta semana en la escuela su hija/hijo aprendió:

Cómo portarse de manera segura en estacionamientos:

1. LOS ESTACIONAMIENTOS son sitios en los que los conductores dejan sus coches, camiones o bicicletas cuando no están usándolos.
2. ESPERA a que un adulto te abra la puerta para bajarte.
3. QUÉDATE A 3 PASOS de los parachoques de los coches.
4. PARA si ves la luz blanca de marcha atrás y espera a que el conductor salga.
5. QUÉDATE CERCA del adulto en todo momento. Es más fácil ver a los adultos que a los niños.
6. CAMINA, NO CORRAS cuando andes por los estacionamientos.
7. SÚBETE de nuevo al coche desde el lado del conductor.
8. NO TE MUEVAS si se te cae algo. Pídele a un adulto que te recoja lo que se te cayó.



Recuerde:

Aunque es posible que usted se dé cuenta rápidamente que es seguro cruzar la calle o que sepa caminar con precaución en un estacionamiento, puede que su hija/hijo no entienda por qué es seguro. Ayude a su hija/hijo a entender comportamientos seguros, practicándolos cada vez que caminen en estacionamientos.

Mirando la imagen, pídale a su hija/hijo que le explique los pasos para bajarse del coche y caminar a la tienda de forma segura. Pregúntele dónde debe caminar con relación a los coches y lo que debe hacer si se le cae un juguete mientras caminan.

¿Sabía usted que...?

La capacidad de los niños para entender y tomar decisiones sobre su seguridad cambia a medida que crecen y se desarrollan.

A los niños en kindergarten y el primer grado se les dificulta:

- controlar sus impulsos y concentrarse,
- juzgar cuándo es seguro cruzar la calle,
- mantener su concentración en una sola cosa, como cruzar la calle sin peligro y
- entender las diferencias entre situaciones seguras e inseguras cuando cruzan las calles.

¡PRACTIQUE EN CASA!

La seguridad en los estacionamientos

La mejor manera para que los niños aprendan a caminar con precaución en los estacionamientos es repitiendo comportamientos seguros con un adulto. A medida que su hija/hijo crezca, repasen a menudo estos conceptos de seguridad para asegurarse que ella/él siga practicando un comportamiento peatonal seguro.

Pregúntele a su hija/hijo qué es un estacionamiento antes de llegar a su destino.

- Los estacionamientos son sitios en los que los conductores dejan sus coches, camiones o bicicletas cuando no están usándolos.

Pregúntele a su hija/hijo cómo bajarse del coche de forma segura. ¿Abres la puerta y sales del coche inmediatamente?

- ¡No! Espera que venga un adulto. Los adultos son más altos y los conductores los pueden ver con más facilidad que a los niños.
- Pregúntale al adulto si es seguro bajarse del coche.
- Cuando el adulto te diga que sí, toma su mano y bájate del coche.
- Bájate del coche del mismo lado del adulto. Si debes bajarte del lado opuesto, quédate cerca del coche y espera al adulto.

Pregúntele a su hija/hijo cómo caminar de forma segura en un estacionamiento.

- Usa los mismos pasos que aprendiste al cruzar las calles de manera segura.
- Mira a la izquierda, a la derecha y a la izquierda otra vez para verificar que no haya coches antes de alejarte del puesto de estacionamiento.
- Cuando no vengan coches, camina (no corras) con un adulto.

Cuando camines en un estacionamiento recuerda seguir estos pasos:

- Mantén 3 pasos grandes de los parachoques de los coches.
- Cuando veas las luces blancas de marcha atrás de un coche, no pases por detrás del coche y espera a que el conductor salga.
- Quédate cerca del adulto en todo momento.
- Siempre camina, nunca corras en un estacionamiento.

Pregúntele a su hija/hijo qué debe hacer si se le cae algo y se rueda lejos de ella/él.

- Dile al adulto y pídele que lo recoja por ti.

Pregúntele a su hija/hijo como subirse al coche de nuevo de manera segura.

- Súbete del mismo lado del conductor.
- Córrete hacia tu asiento una vez que estés dentro del coche.
- Ponte el cinturón de seguridad.

¡Repita la lección cada oportunidad que tenga!

Un programa de seguridad vial para niños y niñas saludables y activos



Let's Go Walking



Name _____

Child Assessment

1. When you are in a parking lot, should you always try to exit or enter the car on the same side as the driver?

Yes

No

2. Mark the bubble under the picture that shows a child walking safely in a parking lot.



A



B



C

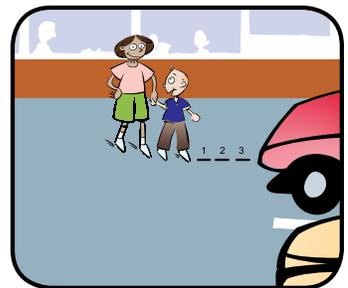
3. Mark the bubble under the picture that shows where a child should walk in a parking lot when a sidewalk is not available.



A



B

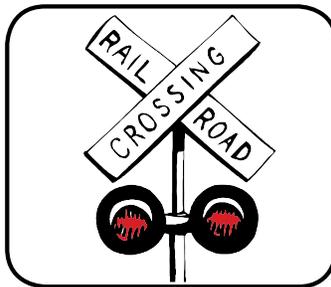


C

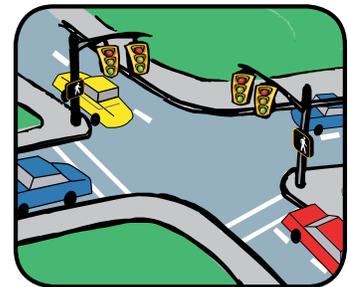
4. Mark the bubble that shows back-up lights that come on when a car is about to move.



A



B



C

Instructor's Question and Answer Key



Questions:

1. When you are in a parking lot, should you always try to exit or enter the car on the same side as the driver?
2. Mark the bubble under the picture that shows a child walking safely in a parking lot.
3. Mark the bubble under the picture that shows where a child should walk in a parking lot when a sidewalk is not available.
4. Mark the bubble that shows back-up lights that come on when a car is about to move.

Answers:

1. Yes
2. B
3. C
4. A