

## This Summer, Look Out for People Walking, Children Playing

With summertime just around the corner, North Texas children will soon have more opportunities to be outside in their neighborhoods. To help keep kids safe this summer, the Look Out Texans safety campaign has created materials to teach children how to bicycle and walk safely.

Parents can use the resources customized for children in grades 3-5 and 6-8 and developed with assistance from North Texas teachers. A combination of videos and activities helps children learn about safe bicycling and walking practices. Articles, letters and tip sheets provide additional information, and through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, Look Out Texans is able to provide all these informative and fun resources for free online at [www.LookOutTexans.org/schoolkit](http://www.LookOutTexans.org/schoolkit).

There are things people walking and bicycling can do to protect themselves and be more visible to drivers, like staying alert and watching for vehicles, wearing bright or reflective clothing, crossing only at crosswalks when walking and signaling movements when bicycling

Parents can teach their children street safety and supervise them when they are bicycling or walking, but ultimately, it is up to everyone to look out for children playing near or crossing the street. Children can be especially difficult to see from a moving vehicle. Their size, unpredictable movements and tendency to run across the street make them easy to miss.

Drivers should always yield to crossing pedestrians, and allow a minimum of three feet when passing someone on a bicycle.

Unfortunately, in North Texas, the number of crashes between people driving and people walking or bicycling has increased in the past five years, as well as resulting fatalities. Understanding how people bicycling, walking and driving should interact together is important to improving safety on area streets and protecting our families, friends and neighbors.



To see more tips for bicycling, walking and driving safely, visit [www.LookOutTexans.org](http://www.LookOutTexans.org).