

Safe Crossings

Adult Crossing Guard Training
Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education



Slide 2



Begin presentation by thanking the crossing guards for the amazing job that they do each and every day to ensure that school children get to and from school safely!

Training Agenda

- Image
- Punctuality
- What not to do
- Must haves
- Responsibilities
- Hands-on demonstrations



Image






- Image is everything. It is the first thing others notice
- Someone with a neat image will gain more respect from children and adults than an individual who does not care about their appearance
- Children pick up on small details and will notice if you take pride in your appearance
- Always make sure your uniform and vest are clean
 - Visibility for safety



A clean vest is important for safety as well because it is the first thing a motorist will see. A dirty vest is less visible.

Punctuality





- Best practice is to arrive about ten minutes early to your post each day
 - Why is this important?
- If you arrive at your post and there is a hazard, being early will provide enough time to reposition yourself for safely crossing the students
 - Example: Prepare for increased stopping distances, avoid falls



Why it's important: Early students that need to be crossed, time to assess the surroundings for construction, snow, wet leaves, parked vehicles blocking post, sun glare, etc.

What Not To Do

- DO NOT:
 - × Be late
 - × Appear unkempt or sloppy
 - × Wear headphones
 - × Use a cell phone (unless for emergencies to call 911)
 - × Park your vehicle where it can cause an obstruction or blind spot
 - × Smoke or chew gum
 - × Use hand signals with children as it may confuse them and motorists
 - Use words with children instead of hand signals



Be late – could lose respect from kids, be reprimanded, a child could get hurt crossing without you

Appear unkempt or sloppy – makes children think you do not care about your job and they may not listen to you

Headphones – your job is to see and hear (recommend kids take theirs off while crossing)

Use a cell phone – All of your attention should be focused on your job and the kids. Only use your phone in an emergency. If you don't have a phone, there are free phones that only dial 911 (www.securethecall.org). Contact your local police department.

Smoke or chew gum: Can cause difficulty in clear communication, should have hands free to hold stop sign and stop children in an emergency, should be a good role model to children

Must Haves

- Always have these materials with you at your post:
 - Pencil
 - Notebook
 - Whistle
 - Phone or two-way radio



Pencil – pen won't write in cold or rainy weather

Notebook – document unruly motorists or behavior incidents with students/parents

Whistle – use only for motorists, NOT people (to eliminate confusion)

Phone/radio – to call for help/911 in an emergency

Responsibilities

- Directing school children
- Interacting with traffic
- Deter pedestrians from unsafe acts
- Communicating with motorists
- Report non-compliant motorists
- Report non-compliant children



Directing children:

- Make hand motions easy to understand and speak clearly, children do not perceive danger like we do (example: when children see a red light they think a car will stop because it's the law. As an adult we know that a car can still blow through a red light).
- Always greet children and interact with them like adults (more likely to gain respect from them)
- Have them stand BEHIND you, not next to you
- When arms are raised to stop children from running past you into the street, stand with palms down toward the ground or facing away from the children. This feels less like a "grab" if a student were to run into your hands interacting with traffic.
- Do not control the flow of traffic as law enforcement would. Look for safe gaps in the traffic or work with traffic signals to cross students. Repeatedly stopping traffic may make motorists angry and unresponsive to your stop sign.
- Communicating with motorists: use white gloves for visibility, remove sunglasses to achieve good eye contact, use whistle only for cars, tuck stop sign under arm when not in use
- Non-compliant motorists: **DOCUMENT** date and time, make and model of vehicle, description of driver, license plate number. Practice taking down plates of moving cars during free time.
- Non-compliant children: **DOCUMENT**. Is there a system for reporting? Does the point of contact (example: police chief) ever go to schools and develop/discuss with the principals the ramifications for not obeying the crossing guards? (Detention, note to parents, apology to crossing guard)?

Documentation



- Very important when working with unruly children and/or motorists
- **Make sure you have the right child!** Ask the child or nearby children for name, or take description of child to school
- Know reporting policies of the group you are working with. Document event, then report to supervisor and/or school



Demonstration



Choose a few volunteers to act as crossing guard, cars, children. Have them mirror the correct way to stop children on sidewalk, find gap in traffic, cross children, and return safely to their post.

Questions?



Contact

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