

Drive for Change



Parents Taking the Lead

It's important to discuss passenger safety with young people as early as elementary school, and especially into middle school. Below are some talking points to help parents and guardians start the conversation to ensure their young passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists stay safe on the roads. Teaching good safety habits to youth at an early age will help prepare them to be future safe drivers.

Pedestrian Safety

- Always cross the street at a designated crosswalk or intersection.
- Increase visibility at night by carrying a flashlight and wearing reflective clothing.
- Sidewalks are safest, but if one isn't available, walk on the shoulder facing traffic.
- Walk in pairs and always tell someone where you are going.

Bicycle Safety

- **Wear the Proper Gear** - Helmet, bright clothing, elbow and knee pads
- **Do a Safety Check** - Inspect tires, brakes and chains before each ride
- **Use Bike Paths** - Or stay on lightly traveled streets
- **Follow a Buddy System** - Always tell someone where you are going
- **Never let others pressure you into riding unsafely!**

Biking Rules of the Road

- Cyclists must obey the same rules as drivers
- Travel in the same direction as traffic
- Signal when turning
- Stop at all stop signs
- Yield to pedestrians and cars

Be a Safe Passenger

- **Buckle up** - Always wear your seat belt!
- **Avoid Driver Distractions** - Talk quietly and stay seated
- **Speak Up** - Call a parent to come get you if you feel unsafe riding with any driver!

Tips for Parents

- Lead by example. Your child will mimic your passenger safety behaviors. Always buckle up!
- Practice constant communication with your child about safe and unsafe driving behaviors so they'll know when they should speak up.
- Set clear rules against drinking and drug use. Discuss helpful ways to resist peer pressure and a safety plan to follow if he/she is in an unsafe situation.
- Establish trust and agreement by completing YOVASO's [Parent-Youth Passenger Agreement](#)
- Talk to your child about being a designated texter when riding in a vehicle with someone who may be tempted to text while driving.
- Ask your child questions and be ready to listen.
- **For more tips on discussing safe driving with your teen, visit:** www.yovaso.org/parent-info/