From a Child’s Perspective:
Principles Behind Child Pedestrian Injury

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| 1. | **Young children are less likely to take notice of objects that are not directly in front of them.** | * Unless they deliberately turn their heads, they may not notice vehicles on the left or right.
* Looking behind is essential behavior when at intersections.
* It is essential that children practice the **look**

**behind-left-right-left** road safety strategy and understand the reason for the sequence for most road crossings. |
| 2. | **Children have difficulty judging the speed of approaching traffic.** | * Children may wait for a slow car but cross in front of a fast one.
* This behavior is related to the size and sound of a vehicle.
* Small vehicles are perceived as being far away and large vehicles are thought to be closer.
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| 3. | **Young children often have difficulty judging the direction from which sound is coming.** | * Children may expect traffic to come from a different direction.
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| 4. | **Because children are small, they often cannot see over parked vehicles or roadside shrubs.** | * This also means that motorists cannot see them.
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| 5. | **Children have a short attention span and attend to those sights and sounds that interest them.** | * This inconsistency of behavior is also influenced by interaction with others.
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| 6. | **Children behave spontaneously, based on impulse.** | * Children can be unpredictable.
* Their high activity level and developing coordination increases this problem. The result is that if moving quickly, they may not be able to stop quickly in an emergency.
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Source*: Let’s Walk Together! Walking School Bus Training Manual Resources*, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.