

PLAN A SAFE WALKING ROUTE ACTIVITY



Ideal for Grades 1 to 4

From crosswalks to traffic lights, to making sure they can be seen, pedestrian safety basics are enforced in this fun and engaging neighbourhood walking route planning activity. The idea is for children to work with an adult to identify and recognize what makes a walking route safer and plan and walk a 20 minute route around their home.

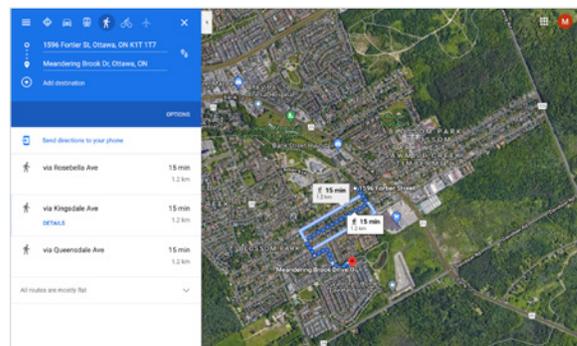
PART 1 SAFE WALKING REVIEW

- Together, using a Google Map, plan out a safe 20 minute walk. Indicate on the map where you will be crossing the street.
- Advise children on what clothing they should be wearing that will allow them to be seen by motorists.
- As you walk the route, stop along the way and identify/explain the following and how they can make a route safe or not:

- Visual barriers – block you and the driver from seeing each other.
- Places to watch out for cars backing out/pulling out – laneways, parking lots.
- The correct place to walk (i.e., sidewalk, left side of the street).
- Where to cross the street and the different types of intersections and crosswalks (i.e., stop signs, traffic lights).
- High traffic/high speed streets and areas to avoid if possible.
- Right of way when crossing at an intersection.
- The meaning of the different traffic and pedestrian lights.
- The five steps to crossing the street safely (stop, look, listen, get big, walk safely).

PART 2 PLANNING A WALKABLE ROUTE

Print off Google Map Street views of the areas you walked for everyone and plot on the map some of the more walkable streets/areas/routes. Once you have walked the route, brainstorm some things that make a route more “walkable.” For example, check the boxes for every one of these things your walking route had and make note of what was missing i.e., sidewalks.



- Sidewalks/wide shoulders on the road
- Lower speed limits on the streets
- Absence of visual barriers
- Intersections at which to cross
- Condition of the crosswalk (street markings, dangerous driving, rolling stops, length of pedestrian light)
- Crossing Guards
- Places to rest along the way