

## **KIDS AT RISK - Young children are physically different from adults:**

- They're short. It's difficult for them to see motorists and for motorists to see them, especially around obstructions like parked or moving cars, buses, and bushes.
- They have underdeveloped peripheral vision – about one-third narrower than an adult's, so a child won't see a motorist coming from the right or left as soon as an adult will.
- They have difficulty judging a car's speed and distance, so they misjudge how far away a car really is. Also, they often think cars can stop instantly.
- They're not small adults! Until children are 10 or 12 years old, they don't have the skills to make good decisions about safe crossing. The full skill set for safe pedestrian crossing is similar to the skills adults use as drivers.

## **Children should be taught to always follow these rules:**

- Walk on the sidewalk, not in the street.
- Never run into the street to catch a ball or chase a toy, a friend, or a pet.
- If you must walk through parked traffic, stop and look carefully before stepping out from between vehicles. Don't run between parked cars and buses. Don't run across the street or through a parking lot.
- Younger kids should never walk alone – they should always be with an adult or older sibling.
- Be especially careful when walking after dark. Wear reflective and light colored clothing.