



# Stay Safe With the Experts

**OBJECTIVE:** Read to learn about people who can help you stay safe in and around school.

**STANDARDS:** Science: Personal health; Social Studies (NCSS): Individual development and identity; production, distribution, and consumption

**“The most important thing you can do to stay safe at school is to listen.”**

## BEFORE READING

### Make Personal Connections

**Talk about the safety helpers at your school.**

You can talk about the helpers at your school, or even conduct a tour of the school, introducing the children to the various helpers. Talk about the school nurse, the P.E. teacher, the indoor and outdoor safety patrols, the crossing guard, the principal, the custodians, and, of course, all of the teachers, who are the biggest safety helpers of all. Tell children that they are going to read some safety tips from safety helpers at another school.

## DURING READING

### Analyze Information

**Ask children the reasons behind the safety tips.**

Reinforce the safety tips in the issue by asking children the reasoning behind them. After reading the crossing guard section on page 2, ask, “Why should you look both ways before crossing the street, even if a crossing guard is there?” (*because a car could be coming very fast and you wouldn’t want to walk out into the street*) After reading the custodian section on page 3, ask, “Why should you walk, not run, down the hall?” (*because if you run, you could trip and hurt yourself*)

## AFTER READING

### Apply Knowledge

**Ask children to apply the safety rules they have learned to different situations.**

Now that children have met the experts, see if they’ve become experts themselves! Give children a situation and ask how they might handle it safely. For example: You are sitting on the school bus and you drop your pencil. The pencil rolls far away. What do you do? (*Stay in your seat. Get your pencil when you’re getting off the bus.*)

## READ ALOUD BACKGROUND

### Jobs at School

- **School bus drivers** have to go to school to learn how to do their job. They learn how to help sick people in emergency situations, as well as the rules of the road.
- **Crossing guards** have to learn traffic rules and hand signals. You can see the hand signal for “stop” in the picture of the crossing guard on page 2 of the issue. Crossing guards usually get to their posts before students leave for school, and they stay there until the last student is inside.
- **Custodians** have to be in good shape! Besides mopping, sweeping, and vacuuming, they often have to move furniture, climb ladders, and open and shut heavy gates.
- **Kids** can do jobs at school. Kids can be snack helpers, line leaders, board erasers, and much more. Do you have a job in your class?

### Get Safety Smart

- Be safe on the way to school. If you ride a bike, wear a **helmet**. If you ride in a car, wear your **seat belt**. If you ride the bus, keep your hands inside at all times.
- If something spills in the classroom, clean it up right away. Don’t leave games or toys on the floor either. This will help make sure that nobody slips and falls.
- There is one thing that should stay on the floor—your chair! Don’t rock back or wiggle around when you sit in it. You could fall and hurt yourself.
- At recess, stand away from the front of the slide. You wouldn’t want someone to slide down right on top of you!
- The most important thing you can do to stay safe at school is to listen. Follow directions the first time you hear them.