



Job Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic 215: Driving Safely around Children**

**Introduction:** It only takes a second to lose sight of a child when driving or backing on a road. Most children are out of school during the summer. They are enjoying themselves and are not aware of every vehicle that is on the road. Drivers must stay alert to children at play. Following are safety guidelines to ensure drivers are aware of their surroundings while in the city or small town:

- Within 500 feet of a school while children are outside or crossing the street, the speed limit is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted.
- When a school ground has no fence and children are outside, never drive faster than 25 mph.
- Always drive carefully near schools, playgrounds, parks, and residential areas because children may suddenly dart into the street.
- Always look for bicyclists and children when driving near schools. Five-sided signs mean you are near a school.
- Stop for school safety patrols or crossing guards and obey their directions. Allow for them to safely get to the side of the road. Stop for stopped school buses and children crossing the street.
- Some school buses flash yellow lights when preparing to stop and let children off the bus. The yellow flashing lights warn you to slow down and prepare to stop. When the bus flashes red lights (located at the top front and back of the bus), you must stop from either direction until the children are safely across the street and the lights stop flashing.
- The law requires you to remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing.



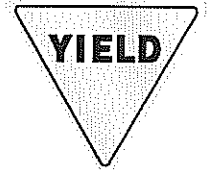
**Take in the whole scene.** If you only look at the middle of the road, you will miss what is happening on the side of the road and behind you. Scanning helps you to see children that may be in the road by the time you reach them. Scan for signs warning of children ahead.

- Turn your head before changing lanes, because your mirrors have blind spots. These blind spots can hide a bicyclist.
- Watch for things about to happen, like a ball rolling into the street or a car door opening.
- Any time you come to a place where children may cross or enter your path or one line of traffic meets another, you should look to the left and right sides of your vehicle to make sure no one is coming. Always look to each side at intersections and crosswalks.

**Backing up:** Backing up is always dangerous because it is hard to see behind your vehicle.

**When you back up or back out of a parking space:**

- Check behind the vehicle before you get in.
- Turn and look over your right shoulder and left shoulder while backing.
- Do not depend only on your mirrors or only looking out a side window.
- Back slowly.



**Following distances:** Suppose there is an oncoming car to your left and a child on a bicycle to your right.

Instead of driving between the car and the child, take one danger at a time.

- First, slow down and let the car pass. Then, move to the left to allow plenty of room, before you pass the child.
- Sometimes there will be dangers on both sides of the road at the same time. For example, there will be parked cars to the right and oncoming cars to the left. In this case, the best thing to do is “split the difference.” Steer a middle course between the oncoming cars and the parked cars.
- If one danger is greater than the other, give the most room to the worst danger. Suppose there are oncoming cars to the left of you and a child on a bike to the right. The child is most likely to make a sudden move. Therefore, give him or her, the most room by moving closer to the oncoming cars.



**Blind intersections:** The speed limit for a blind intersection and alley is 15 mph. An intersection is considered “blind” if there are no stop signs at any corner and you cannot see for 100 feet in either direction during the last 100 feet before crossing.

- Trees, bushes, buildings, or parked cars at intersections can block your view to the side. If your view is blocked, edge forward slowly until you can see.
- Remember, you must turn your headlights on 30 minutes after sunset. In the morning, you must leave them on until 30 minutes before sunrise.

**Conclusion:** Always do a walk-around the vehicle before driving away from home, work, and any stops in-between.

**Work Site Review**

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Signatures:**

*(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)*

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**City of San Angelo Foreman/Supervisor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*