

## **Bicycle Safer Journey ages 5-9**

*NARRATOR – a friendly young woman, heard but not seen*

*ALEX – 9 year-old Caucasian boy*

*NATE – 7 year-old African American boy*

*ROSA – 6 year-old Latina*

*MUSIC BEGINS.*

*WE SEE THE TITLE: **Bicycle Safer Journey***

*First ROSA (wearing a helmet) rides by on her bicycle, crossing the screen in front of the title.*

ROSA: Riding your bike is a lot of fun!

*Then NATE (no helmet) rides by behind it.*

NATE: Yeah!

*Right behind him comes ALEX (also no helmet) on a bike that's too big for him.*

ALEX: Wait! Whoa!

*He swerves, knocks the title off the screen, and goes wobbling out of the shot.*

*CUT TO A CLOSER SHOT of Alex riding directly at us, barely in control of his wobbly bike. A dog runs out of his way, knocking over a trashcan and spilling the trash so that Alex is leaving a trail of comic destruction in his wake. The camera goes in real close on his face; he's not sure this is going to end well.*

ALEX: *(continues)* Whoooooaaaaaa!

*SIDE ANGLE; he comes into the shot from the left, putting on his brakes. The bike skids to a halt and he jumps off and stands next to it. He's a little wobbly, too.*

ALEX: *(continues)* I don't think it's all that fun.

NARRATOR: It *can* be. It can be a *lot* of fun.

*CUT TO Rosa and Nate standing by their bikes.*

ROSA: That's what I said.

NATE: Me, too.

NARRATOR: And you're right. But it's important to ride safely. And there are things you can do to help keep yourself safe.

ALEX: Like what?

NARRATOR: Well, you start by making sure you have the right bicycle.

*Alex stands next to his bike; his DAD stands nearby.*

ALEX: What's wrong with this one?

NARRATOR: It's too big for you. That's why you're having trouble riding it.

*Now Alex is sitting on the seat of his bike. His feet don't quite touch the ground.*

NARRATOR: *(continues)* When you sit on the bike, like that, you should be able to touch the ground with both feet. If you can't...

ALEX: I almost can.

NARRATOR: Almost doesn't count. If you can't touch the ground, you need a smaller bike.

*He looks at his dad, who nods. Alex's bike shrinks a bit so that it's now his size. CUT TO Rosa and Nate.*

ALEX: Okay, that *is* better.

ROSA: What else?

NARRATOR: Well ... what you wear is important.

NATE: You mean we have to wear special bike clothes?

NARRATOR: No, but you want something bright.

*Their clothes suddenly change to brighter colors—fluorescent yellow-green and orange.*

NARRATOR: *(continues)* It makes it easier for the drivers to see you. And being seen is a big part of being safe. That's also why reflectors, like these, are important.

*CLOSE-UP of a red rear reflector on a bike.*

ROSA: And they look cool.

NARRATOR: But probably the most important thing you should wear is a helmet.

*Suddenly Nate is wearing a helmet.*

NATE: Why?

NARRATOR: Because it protects your head if you crash.

NATE: But I won't crash, I'm a good rider.

NARRATOR: Even a good rider might crash. What if a dog ran in front of you all of a sudden?

NATE: Oh, yeah. I didn't think of that.

*CLOSE-UP of Nate in the helmet.*

NARRATOR: *(continues)* Wear it this way. Not this way. *(now the strap is undone)* Or this way. *(now it's on sideways)* Or this way. *(now it's hanging off the handlebars of his bike)* This way. *(now it's back on his head properly)* It should fit snug on your head and sit low on your forehead, like this, so you can see the edge of the helmet when you look up. And it should always be buckled.

NATE: Okay.

*CUT TO Alex, who is standing by his bike. He also has a helmet on now.*

ALEX: Can I get on the bike now?

NARRATOR: If you remember to do one more thing.

ALEX: What?

NARRATOR: If there's something wrong with your bike – like maybe the tires don't have enough air, or the brakes don't work very well – be sure to tell an adult. And tell them *before* you ride it, okay?

ALEX: Okay.

NARRATOR: Good. Now let's talk about the rules for safe riding.

ALEX: Oh, man. Are there a lot?

NARRATOR: No, just a few. But they're important. The first one is: ride with an adult – like your parent, for example – or with an older brother or sister.

*CUT TO Rosa and her SISTER riding bikes in the park.*

ROSA: I do that! With my sister. She's in high school. She helps me decide where we should ride.

NARRATOR: And where's that?

ROSA: We like to ride in the park, where there aren't many cars.

*CUT TO Nate and his DAD riding in a low-traffic neighborhood.*

NATE: We ride on roads where there's not much traffic.

NARRATOR: Good! Those are both good ideas. And do you ride on the right side of the road or the left?

*We see them riding on the right, in the same direction as traffic.*

ROSA: On the right!

NATE: In the same direction the cars are going.

NARRATOR: Yes. And here's an easy way to remember that: Ride Right.

*CLOSE-UP of Rosa.*

ROSA: Ride Right! Okay, what else?

*Several things appear side by side: a stop sign, a yield sign, and a traffic signal.*

NARRATOR: Road signs and traffic signals. You have to do what they say. So if you see a stop sign or a red signal...

ROSA: You have to stop.

*The red signal turns green.*

NARRATOR: Yes. And a green signal...

ALEX: Means you can go.

NARRATOR: It does. But you still need to use your eyes and your ears. Look and listen to what's around you.

*We see Alex riding in a quiet neighborhood with his dad, both of them looking out for cars or pedestrians.*

NARRATOR: *(continues)* Just because you see other people doesn't mean they see you, even if you have on a bright shirt. Sometimes people get distracted and forget to look for each other.

*Suddenly Alex starts weaving back and forth in the road.*

NARRATOR: *(continues)* And don't be weaving back and forth like that because then the drivers won't know what you're doing.

ALEX: And we might get hit?

NARRATOR: Yes.

*Back to the three of them standing with their bikes.*

NARRATOR: *(continues)* If you're riding on a trail or a sidewalk, you need to watch out for the people walking there, and move out of their way. And if you need to pass someone, let them know before you do it.

*We hear the sound of a bicycle bell ringing.*

ROSA: All right.

NARRATOR: Now ... this might be the most important one of all.

*Rosa and her sister come to an intersection, stop, and look left, right and left again before they cross, just as the narrator is describing it.*

NARRATOR: *(continues)* When you're crossing a street, or a path, or a driveway, or an alley, or any place a car could pull out, you should stop and look left, then right, then left again. Make sure there isn't a car coming before you go on.

*Now we see Nate and his dad watching for cars in driveways as they ride down the street. At one point they stop and wait for a car to back out, then look left, right and left again before proceeding.*

NATE: So, any place a car could be coming...

NARRATOR: Any place.

ROSA: We stop, and we look left, right and left again.

NARRATOR: Yes. And if no cars are coming, then you can go.

ALEX: But what if there are lots of cars coming?

*We see Rosa and her sister walking their bikes across a street in a crosswalk.*

NARRATOR: If there's a lot of traffic or you're not comfortable riding across the street for any reason, you could both get off your bikes and walk them to the other side in a crosswalk.

ROSA: Sometimes my sister and I do that.

*CUT TO all three of them with their bikes.*

ALEX: Can we ride our bikes now?

NARRATOR: Almost. First tell me one important thing you just learned.

*TWO-SHOT of Nate and Rosa.*

ROSA: Always ride with an adult. Or an older brother or sister.

NARRATOR: Yes. And what else?

NATE: Wear your helmet!

NARRATOR: Excellent! One more.

*CLOSE-UP of Alex.*

ALEX: When you come to an intersection or a driveway or anything like that, you should stop and look left, right, and left again to make sure no cars are coming.

*Back to all three of them.*

NARRATOR: Yes! Very good!

ALEX: Are we done?

NARRATOR: We're done. Have a good ride!

*The three kids and Nate's dad ride across the screen trailing **The End** behind them.*

*FADE OUT.*