

Pedestrian Safer Journey Ages 5 – 9 Video Script

This should be done in some kind of simple but graphically interesting 2D animation.

Main Characters:

NARRATOR – a friendly young woman; we only hear her voice

ALEX – 9 year-old Caucasian boy

NATE – 7 year-old African American boy

ROSA – 6 year-old Latina

MUSIC BEGINS.

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

ALEX stands up in front of the title. He looks out at us viewers.

ALEX: Wait, what's this about?

NARRATOR: It's about walking safely.

ALEX: *(not thrilled)* Walking safely?

NARRATOR: Un-huh.

NATE and ROSA come walking in from the left side. As they move left to right across the frame, they turn their heads but not their bodies to talk to us.

NATE: We already know how to do that.

ROSA: Pretty easy.

They pass Alex and he falls in walking behind them.

NARRATOR: Okay, so if you three were anywhere you could walk safely?

ROSA: Sure.

NARRATOR: What about here?

Suddenly the scene changes and they're on a stormy prairie. A tornado picks up Nate.

NATE: Hey!

He goes flying up and out of the shot.

NARRATOR: Or here?

Sudden change: now it's just Rosa and Alex in a Road Runner-style landscape. They're walking on the edge of a very high cliff. Rosa tips over the side and disappears out of the shot.

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ROSA: Whoa!

Sudden change: Alex is walking through a jungle.

NARRATOR: Or here?

A TIGER HEAD pops into the shot and swallows him whole. SOUND EFFECT: CHOMP. From inside the tiger we hear Alex's muffled voice.

ALEX: That's not fair.

NARRATOR: I know. I was just kidding.

The background changes and—POP, POP, POP!—they're all back in the shot, magically restored.

NARRATOR (*continues*): We're not talking about that, we're talking about walking down the *street* and being safe. And there are certain things you need to know. And do.

ALEX: Like what?

NARRATOR: Like walk, don't run, to start with. And when you're walking near cars, don't start messing around and pushing other kids.

NATE: 'Cause we might accidentally push them in front of a car?

NARRATOR: Yes, and *you* might end up in the street, too. And walk with an adult. A parent, maybe. Or, if you have one, an older brother or sister.

The scene changes. Rosa is walking down the sidewalk with her OLDER SISTER.

ROSA: I do that with my sister. She's in high school.

NARRATOR: Good.

Scene change: Alex walks down the street by himself.

ALEX: I don't need to, 'cause I'm nine.

NARRATOR: Actually you do. You should walk with an adult until you're ten.

ALEX'S DAD zips into the frame and is walking a step or two behind him.

ALEX: But if I have an adult, why do I need to learn these rules? Won't *they* know?

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NARRATOR: They should, but *you* still need to know them. You won't always be nine, and when you're old enough to walk by yourself, you need to know how to walk safely. So ... you walk on the sidewalk. But what if there isn't a sidewalk?

Scene change: Nate and his DAD stand on a street with no sidewalk.

NATE: Then ... walk in the street?

As she describes what to do we see Nate and his father doing it.

NARRATOR: Welllll, not exactly. Walk on the *side* of the street. And when you do that, always walk on the left side, facing traffic.

NATE: But then cars are coming right at you.

We continue to see Nate and his father do what she's describing.

NARRATOR: That's true. But then you can see them from a long way off, and, if you need to, you can step to the side and get out of their way. If you walk on the right side, the cars come up behind you and you won't see them, and they may not be able to see you, either. You could get hurt that way.

NATE: Oh.

NARRATOR: If you can do it, it's better to walk on roads that aren't so busy, when there aren't so many cars going by.

Scene changes. Alex is walking down the sidewalk. He's wearing a dark sweatshirt, he has ear buds in his ears and his nose in a hand-held game. He's not paying attention to anything and seems to barely hear the Narrator.

NARRATOR (*continues*): But no matter how many cars there are, you want to be sure you're not distracted while you're walking.

ALEX (*distracted*): Huh?

NARRATOR: Do you know what a distraction is?

ALEX (*not listening*): What?

NARRATOR: A distraction.

ALEX: What's that?

NARRATOR: Something that takes your attention away. Like that game in your hand.

Alex walks into a light pole—BAM!—and falls down.

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ALEX: Ow.

NARRATOR: If you're distracted when you're walking, you might not see something... like a car backing out of a driveway. And they may not see you, either. Because drivers get distracted, too. So they might not stop.

ALEX: You mean I might get hit?

As with Nate, we see Alex and his dad doing the things the Narrator is describing.

NARRATOR: Yes. That's why you need to be paying attention. Stop when you come to a driveway or an alleyway, and make sure a car isn't backing out – or pulling in from the street. When you're sure no one's coming, *then* you can cross.

The scene changes and they're in a parking lot. We see the reverse lights of a car backing out.

NARRATOR: Do the same thing if you're walking in a parking lot. Watch out for cars that are backing out or pulling into parking spaces.

Suddenly we're back in a neighborhood and Alex is walking to school. As the Narrator mentions bright colors, his clothing changes to something bright and reflective.

NARRATOR (*continues*): It's also a good idea to wear bright colors when you're out for a walk – even if you're just walking to school or the bus stop.

ALEX: Why?

NARRATOR: Because bright colors or shiny, reflective clothes make it easier for drivers to see you. If they don't see you, they won't know you're there, and you might get hurt.

SCENE CHANGE: Rosa stands in front of a house.

NARRATOR (*continues*): Now let's talk about crossing the street.

ROSA: My turn.

Again, throughout this section as the Narrator describes things, they happen. The neighborhood we see has trashcans, driveways and large bushes. There's a curb on the street.

NARRATOR: Okay. Let's say you're in your neighborhood, in the middle of the block, and you need to cross the street. What's the first thing you do?

ROSA: Have my sister with me?

Rosa's Sister POPS into the shot.

NARRATOR: Yes. Cross with an adult. Or someone older, like your sister.

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ROSA: Okay.

NARRATOR: The next thing is: find the best place to cross. Your sister can help you do that.

ROSA: But what's a good place?

NARRATOR: It's someplace where you can see cars coming and the drivers can see you. So stay away from things that might make you hard to see. You know, things like parked cars or big bushes or trashcans.

As she mentions cars, bushes and trashcans, those things pop out of the picture, making for a better view of the street.

NARRATOR (*continues*): Find a place where you can see the street really well in all directions.

ROSA: Then what?

NARRATOR: Then stop at the edge of the street. Look and listen for cars. Look both ways, more than once.

The trashcan pops back up, blocking their view.

NARRATOR (*continues*): If there *is* something in your way – like a trash can – you'll need to stop and look again. When your sister is sure no cars are coming, she'll let you know. Together you'll walk quickly straight across the street. Keep your head up and look both ways to make sure no one's coming until you get across. And hold the hand of the adult you're with.

SCENE CHANGE: Nate stands at an intersection.

NARRATOR (*continues*): Do you know what an intersection is?

NATE: Where one street crosses another street?

NARRATOR: Yeah! And crossing at a crosswalk or an intersection is a lot like what we just learned.

NATE: Except there's cars coming from different directions. And a stoplight.

And a stoplight on a pole POPS UP beside him.

NARRATOR: Sometimes. Not every intersection has a stoplight, but some of the ones that do will tell you when to walk and when not to walk.

We see a CLOSE-UP view of Walk and Don't Walk.

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NARRATOR (*continues*): Walk looks like this. Don't Walk looks like this. And remember, the light says Walk, it doesn't say Run.

Nate's Dad appears and together they demonstrate what the Narrator is describing. Nate holds his dad's hand as they cross the street.

NARRATOR (*continues*): But whether it's a stoplight or a stop sign or just a crosswalk, you need to look in front and behind, and left and right to make sure no cars are coming before you cross. Together you'll walk straight across to the other side.

All three of the kids reappear.

NARRATOR (*continues*): So how about it? Think you can walk safely now?

ALEX: Yeah, if there aren't any tigers.

NARRATOR: Good! Now, what would you say are the two most important things you learned today – besides stay away from tigers?

ALEX: Stay alert!

ROSA: And watch for cars?

NARRATOR: Yes. Stay alert and watch for cars. Very good.

NATE: Are we done?

Nate's Dad POPS into the frame with them.

NARRATOR: We're done. Walk safely!

*The four of them walk out of the frame and **The End** follows them in.*

MUSIC UP.