Activities

Summer Safety on Wheels
Help kids keep an eye on safety skills as they roll through summer

Grades: PreK–K, 1–2, 3–5, 6–8

Overview
Ways to emphasize safety by involving kids in acting-out hand signals, playing a what-if safety game, etc.

Hands-On Signals
Hand signals are used by bike-riders to communicate the intention to change direction or stop. Show children how to make these easy-to-learn signals with their left arms, as shown. Then have them practice using the signals as they move around the classroom, the playground, and the school building. You might even plan silent mystery walks to different locations, using only the signals to give directions to students along the way.
"Wheeling Around" Word Wall
Create a scenic word wall to reinforce children's knowledge of safety signs and rules. Have students brainstorm a list of safety words related to wheel activities (including words for safety gear, such as helmet and kneepads). Then invite them to illustrate bulletin board paper with a park scene illustrated with paths. Next, ask them to design and cut out skateboards and roller blades, leaving space on their creations to write safety-related words. Have children attach their labeled cutouts to the scene. Encourage them to refer to the word wall in class discussions, writing exercises, and other activities related to safety on wheels.

Signs For Safety
Help children recognize and comprehend safety words and symbols. Display and review common safety signs such as "Stop," "Do Not Enter," "One Way," "Yield," "Caution," "Exit Only," "Enter," and the symbols for a traffic light, pedestrian crossing, railroad crossing, bike, roller blades, and skateboard. Also include the symbol for "No" (a circle divided by a diagonal bar). Have each of several small groups create a few of the reviewed signs. Have children glue craft sticks to the back of their signs for portability. Then tape paths on the floor of a large open area to create roads that intersect, merge, and end. Station children with the appropriate signs at different locations along the roads. Invite the remaining students to take turns pretending to ride bikes on the roads. As they wheel along, ask them to read and obey the safety signs on their route. Rotate student roles so that each child has a turn holding a sign and walking the route.