

LA Street Smarts: Richie's Neighborhood

The LA Street Smarts project, developed at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, provides an interactive experience for children to learn pedestrian safety.

The Facts

For young pedestrians in Los Angeles County, vehicle-related accidents are a leading cause of injury and death. The National Highway Traffic Safety Act's (NHTSA) National Center for Statistics and Analysis reported 1,347 children age 14 and younger were killed in the United States, with 284 pedestrian deaths occurring in California in 2008. Resulting injuries cause significant physical, emotional and financial hardship for children and their families.

The long-term goal of *LA Street Smarts: Richie's Neighborhood* is to decrease the incidence of child pedestrian trauma. The project's main objective is to educate elementary school-aged children in L.A. County about the hazards associated with walking near, in and around streets.



Features

- Life-size intersections with flashing traffic signals
- Safety walks around motor vehicles
- Available to local schools, parks and community events
- Requires a power source, but also has limited generator capacity
- Includes injury prevention videogame console
- Bilingual

Uses

- Community health fairs and events
- School assemblies
- Classroom presentations
- Safety and law enforcement events
- Parent trainings



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Richie's Legacy

In 1987, California State Sen. Richard Alarcón's three-year old son Richie was killed in a car crash in North Hollywood. Gaps in pediatric trauma resources continue to exist in funding, services and system infrastructure. Richie's story is an example of the work still needing to be done.

As a result, California Senate Bill 1773 was created and passed. This bill generates funds for emergency medical services and pediatric trauma care which provides Children's Hospital Los Angeles with funds for the injury prevention project. In honor of Richie Alarcón, Children's Hospital Los Angeles dedicates our child pedestrian safety project in his memory.

A child who completes the LA Street Smarts set will learn how to:

- Cross intersections at stop lights.
- Avoid rescuing a ball thrown into the street.
- Signal a driver who is backing up.
- Safely walk around motor vehicles.



To find out more about LA Street Smarts please visit: CHLA.org/INJURYPREVENTION or call 323-361-4697