

# TEACHING LISTENING

## PARKING LOTS, STREETS & HIGHWAYS

### Step 1: Set the stage.

"You and mommy are going to walk into a busy parking lot. There are lots of fast cars. You need to stay close to mommy so that you can stay safe. We have to look for cars. If you run into the parking lot and there is a fast car, it would hurt you very badly."

### Step 2: Share how to stay safe.

"You can hold my hand to stay safe." Or "You can look for cars to stay safe." Or "You can walk next to me or sit buckled in the stroller to stay safe." The more you can repeat the words "stay safe," the better. You want this phrase to be the lightbulb switch in your child's brain.

### Step 3: Share consequences to unsafe.

"We are close to a street. We always look for cars both ways. Look there's a car. And there's another car over there. If you ran in front of the car, and the car didn't see you, it could hit you and that would hurt very badly."

### Step 4: Strength-training.

Share your child their strengths, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant. "You know how to stay safe. You look for cars and stayed close to mom even though you wanted to run and play a game. You handled that really well!" Or "You know how to stay safe from cars. I'm proud of you."