

## **Children with ADHD at Higher Risk for Injuries When Crossing the Street**

Every year, many children are injured in pedestrian/car accidents. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently published a study examining whether developmental disabilities, specifically ADHD, increased the number of injuries sustained by children while crossing the street.

According to the study, conducted at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, children with ADHD do run a higher risk of injury when crossing the street, but not for the reason they originally hypothesized.

ADHD symptoms vary by child, but many of these children are characterized as being compulsive, impatient, and easily distracted. It was anticipated that they would forget to look left and right before crossing. This actually wasn't the problem – their crossings showed they had learned and were following basic safety protocols.

This study examined 78 children (half with ADHD and half without) from the ages of 7 to 10. No children were harmed in the making of this study. That sounds cliché, but it's true – the research involved a virtual environment with avatars.

The behavior of children with ADHD before the cross and during the cross was consistent with those who do have the disorder. Unfortunately, the children with ADHD had a much harder time evaluating the safety of the environment. In other words, they were not able to correctly gauge the timing needed to cross the street before another car came by.

It will be more difficult to teach children how to time their crossing, but hopefully parents with children who have ADHD can take this information and instill in their children the need to proceed with the utmost caution – not just looking both ways, but making sure there is plenty of time to cross the street between cars.

Pedestrians have the right of way at intersections. But this will not comfort you when your child gets hit by a car. If this does happen, then you might want to consider hiring a Portland child injury lawyer to assist you in getting compensation for the injuries and getting medical bills paid. Your child's health is the most important thing, and hiring an attorney could be your best option to make sure the car's driver is held accountable.