

## How Bike Safety Education Should and Should NOT Look

For bike safety education to have the most impact, students need to experience riding on the street. There are challenges to bringing youth onto the road, especially if they have little or no prior experience with navigating traffic. Students will have to balance having a new, sometimes uncomfortable, experience while paying attention to instructions and practicing new skills. Other road users will not be expecting a large group of youth riding in the street.

As the teacher, you will need to manage on-street activities in a way that allows students to learn and experience the road while keeping them safe. Here are some guidelines that will help you facilitate this learning opportunity.

Should	Should NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students ride in a straight, single-file line</li> <li>● Teacher allows students to experience the road and do unsafe behaviors in a controlled environment</li> <li>● Feedback is given to a student who demonstrates unsafe behaviors</li> <li>● Teacher sends students back to school with clear stopping points for regrouping and to ensure supervision</li> <li>● Teacher and other adults model desired behavior</li> <li>● Teacher structures an environment where students can imitate traffic</li> <li>● Teacher sets traffic interaction protocol, utilizing existing infrastructure is preferred</li> <li>● Teacher monitors streets as well as students</li> <li>● Teacher stops student not traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students focus on socializing</li> <li>● Students make errors on busier streets (crashing, forgetting to shoulder-check, not using correct lane position, etc.)</li> <li>● Teacher sends students back to school without supervision</li> <li>● Teacher encourages sidewalk riding</li> <li>● Teacher uses commercial parking lots as shortcuts</li> <li>● Teacher directs traffic with other road users</li> <li>● Teacher misses a close call between a vehicle and a student</li> <li>● Teacher provides feedback by shouting from a distance</li> <li>● Teacher allows students to repeatedly demonstrate unsafe behavior</li> </ul>

Controlled Environment	Uncontrolled Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Speed limits under 25 mph</li> <li>● Neighborhood streets</li> <li>● School property</li> <li>● Uncontrolled intersections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Speed limits over 25 mph</li> <li>● Construction zones</li> <li>● Active school parking lots</li> <li>● Through-streets</li> <li>● Intersections with traffic lights</li> </ul>



## Are students ready to ride on the road?

Individual students who are ready to ride on the road demonstrate the following:

- Ability to start and stop with ease
- Ability to ride in a straight line
- Ability to break safely
- Ability to follow the pace of rider in front
- Ability to follow ALPACA principles
- Emotional awareness to follow directions

For the community ride, students must have participated in most of the classes. Make sure students demonstrate the above listed abilities as well as:

- Ability to follow traffic laws
- Ability to ride on the right side of the road
- Ability to communicate with other road users

