

This is Ashley!

Real User Walkthrough

Ashley just turned six years old and is new to kindergarten this year. Although Ashley has many friends, her parents worry about how shy she is while interacting with new people, especially adults. Anxious about starting kindergarten, Ashley has voiced her concerns and fears about meeting her teachers and interacting with people older than her. Despite her initial shyness, however, Ashley often warms up to and becomes comfortable with adults after a short period of time. While they were watching the news the other day, Ashley's parents discovered that the school district Ashley is in has decided to test C.A.M, the Crossing Assistant Machine in response to a shortage of crossing guards in the area due to the increasingly younger population. C.A.M is not only advertised as a crossing guard robot but as a social companion for pedestrians, namely children, as they are crossing the crosswalk. C.A.M's built-in learning and visualization capabilities allow it to recognize children and tailor its interactions with a child

based on previous communication. Ashley's parents see this as an incredible opportunity for her to practice interacting with adults in a low stakes environment with a medium Ashley is already so comfortable with due to growing up in a high-tech household.

On the morning of her first day of school, Ashley is nervous about the day ahead but is both curious and excited about meeting C.A.M on her way to school. Ever since her parents mentioned C.A.M to her in the days prior, Ashley talked about nothing else and couldn't wait to see it. Despite her fascination and excitement around meeting C.A.M, Ashley begged her parents to let her stay home while walking to her school. Upon approaching the crosswalk leading to the school, however, Ashley immediately stopped crying, struck with awe by C.A.M's friendly and approachable appearance and demeanor. In fact, C.A.M reminded Ashley of Eve the robot, a character in her favorite Pixar movie, WALL-E. As she got closer, Ashley noticed that the kids were all smiling and laughing with C.A.M which put her further at ease. As Ashley finally arrived at the crosswalk, C.A.M asked her in a friendly

voice, “Hello, what’s your name?” and told her a funny joke. Seeing her wide grin and happiness in her eyes, Ashley’s parents felt as if a weight had been lifted from their shoulders. They were also dumbfounded by the remarkable ease in which C.A.M monitored and directed traffic, providing a seamless and incredibly enjoyable and safe experience for everyone that was crossing the crosswalk.

On walking into her orientation of her new school, Ashley tugged at her parents hand and started to cry again. Her parents reminded her, however, of how well her conversation had gone with C.A.M previously in the morning and Ashley smiled. Ashley’s first meeting with her teacher, Mrs. Jones, started off a little shaky but her parents were amazed to see how quickly she warmed up to Mrs. Jones. In fact, all Ashley could talk about with Mrs. Jones was how funny and cool C.A.M was and how she couldn’t wait to see C.A.M again the next morning. Ashley and Mrs. Jones hugged and said goodbye.

The next morning, Ashley was surprised to see that C.A.M remembered who she was and what

her name was! To her delight and surprise, C.A.M recognized Ashley and asked her how her first day of school went as C.A.M ushered her across the crosswalk. As the school year went on, C.A.M and Ashley became even better friends and C.A.M offered Ashley support through both good and bad times. When Ashley did poorly on a test or had a fight with one of her friends, C.A.M would be there to comfort her and make her laugh. Both Ashley and her parents are extremely thankful that Ashley had the opportunity to meet C.A.M and work past her fear of meeting adults.