



# SCHOOL-AGED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Roads are designed with adults in mind



Children under 10 should always walk with a responsible adult near roads. Most children younger than 10 are not physically or mentally ready to make safe choices in traffic by themselves - For example, children have underdeveloped peripheral vision until age 9 and are not as well equipped to identify where sounds are coming from.

It is recommended that children aged 5 to 9 years of age are supervised at all times near traffic and hold your child's hand until at least 8 years of age. When your child is at least 10 years of age, continue to supervise them closely and hold their hand when crossing the road.

Children need practise and experience to walk safely in the traffic environment. Parents and caregivers have a key role in educating their children about road safety. Children learn about road safety largely by experience.

Parents and adult carers have opportunities in day-to-day routines to discuss road safety with children on the way to the park, shops or going to school. Whenever crossing roads, driveways or carparks, it is an ideal opportunity to talk about when and why it is safe to cross the road with your children so they can gain a good understanding of road safety issues.

Alongside the benefits of learning road safety, it is great chance to spend time with your family and good exercise!!





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Remember to use the SLLT Procedure

## What is the SLLT Procedure?



When the road is clear or all traffic has stopped, walk straight across the road and continue LOOKING and LISTENING for traffic while crossing.

### **i** Important information

Although children may think they can handle crossing a road by themselves, remember that children:

- Are easily distracted and focus on only one aspect of what is happening,
- Are smaller and harder for drivers to see,
- Are less predictable than other pedestrians,
- Cannot accurately judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles,
- Cannot accurately predict the direction sounds are coming from,
- Are unable to cope with sudden changes in traffic conditions,
- Do not understand abstract ideas - such as road safety,
- Are unable to identify safe places to cross the road,
- Tend to act inconsistently in and around traffic.



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Children are vulnerable road users



## Safety tip:

The safest place to meet your child is on school grounds or near the school gate. Never call them from across the road.

A dangerous traffic situation for children can be anywhere there is potential for moving vehicles! This includes residential areas, school zones, car parks, driveways, at traffic lights, along footpaths, pedestrian and other crossings, and both quiet & busy streets!

- ✔ Always use pedestrian crossings where possible
- ✔ Teach children to stop at the kerb and wait until cars have come to a complete stop.
- ✔ Try and make eye contact with the driver before you cross to make sure they have seen you.
- ✔ When crossing continue to listen and look for dangers and oncoming traffic.
- ✔ Wait for the walk signals at traffic lights – don't enter the road if the red do not walk signal is flashing.
- ✔ Plan your walking routes to school or any other destination to find the safest places to walk and cross the street, particularly if children are walking without an adult.