

# Pedestrian Safety Training

**Policy:** Programs must collaborate with parents to promote children's health and well-being. Such collaboration must provide opportunities for parents to learn about appropriate vehicle and pedestrian safety for keeping children safe.

Children see things around them from a very different perspective than an adult. They have a lower viewpoint and have not developed the ability to judge speed and distance or understand danger, which is necessary for their road safety. By repeating the following tasks every time you are around cars and traffic, you teach your child how to stay safe!

## Birth to 12 months



- **Never** leave an infant/child unattended in the car
- Always **take your child out of the car on the curb side**. Your child will get used to only using the door on the curb side to exit the car, this will carry over to primary school years.
- Always **put your child in the car first** so that your child is safely restrained. When getting out of the car, **take your child out of the car last** so they are always by your side.



- Always **choose safe places to cross** with a clear view of traffic. By choosing safe and clear places to cross e.g. pedestrian crossings or traffic lights, your child will start to understand when they should cross the street.
- Always **stop at the curb before crossing** and explain to your child how and where you are checking for traffic.
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## Toddlers 12 months to 2 years



- **Separate the driveway and the garage from where children play.**
- Always **supervise your children when a vehicle is being moved** on your property.
- When you are the only parent at home, **put your children securely in the car with you** to move a vehicle.
- **Make access to the driveway from the house to the yard difficult** for children. Put in a fence, security door, or gate.
- **Do not at any time allow your child to play in the driveway**; this is not a play area.
- Remember that **using mirrors when backing up still leaves limited visibility** of the area behind the car. Fit special mirrors on your car to increase visibility.
- **Know where all children are before backing out of your driveway.**
- **Make sure none of the child's toys are near the driveway** or front pathways.



- Always **hold your toddler's hand** at all times. If they are unwilling, use a stroller.
- Look for dangers. **Stop at driveways** and tell your child you are checking for cars.
- **Talk to your toddler** about what to do when crossing streets or driveways.
- **Point out any road/street signs, traffic signals, and road markings.** Tell your child what they mean.
- **Involve your child**, ask them what they can see and if they think it is safe.

## Children 2 to 5 years

At this age your child is learning and using many new words. Explain to your child the meaning of words such as stop, go, look, and dangerous. The basics, such as holding your child's hand at all times, are still very important. Now that they are a little older, you can involve them in decision-making when it comes to crossing the road.



- **Do not allow your child to get out of the car until you are at their door waiting:** If you have a baby in the car, have your child wait in the car until you have taken the baby out and you are ready.
- Continue to **make sure your child is exiting the car on the curb side.**



- **Hold hands with your child** – boys are three times more likely than girls to be involved in pedestrian injuries, so it is worth preserving.
- When crossing a road, **stop at the curb and show them where the traffic is coming from:** Help your child get used to looking both ways before letting you know it might be safe to cross.
- **Talk about vehicles traveling towards you and away from you** and vehicles that are traveling fast and slow: Explain why you decide it is safe to cross.
- **Involve your child in the decision-making:** By encouraging your child to share your thoughts on what to do in different circumstances your child can become more confident in their ability to follow the road rules.

## Child Road/Street Safety

Constant supervision is the best way to know where your child is so you can help keep them safe. Children most at risk on the roads are those aged five to nine, often because they are given more opportunities to cross roads/streets on their own. By putting habits in place that teach your child about road safety from a very young age, you are giving your child the best chance you can to keep them safe on the roads. Remember that the best road safety training is practical experience.

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Parent Signature & Date

X

Staff Signature & Date