

Safe school travel

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Road crashes account for 58% of all accidental deaths among children aged 5-14 years.

Keeping your children safe

Children are vulnerable road users. They are at risk in the traffic environment because of their size, their difficulty in judging speed and distance and the fact that they may behave unpredictably.

More than one million children in NSW travel to and from school each day by car, bike, public transport or as a pedestrian. Each form of transport poses potential hazards. The RTA has introduced a program of 40km school zones and also funds the Road Safety Education program in NSW schools. But this alone is not enough; you can help by following some simple safety steps and by regularly reinforcing important road safety messages with your children.



Safety steps for parents/carers of school-aged children

There are some simple steps you can take to help ensure the safety of your children when they are travelling to and from school.

- Always make sure your children wear a snugly fitted seat belt when travelling in the car.
- Always drop-off and pick-up your children on the school side of the road.
- Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car.
- Never call your children across the road.
- Children aged between 4 and 7 years must be restrained in an approved forward-facing restraint or booster seat that is properly fitted to the vehicle and adjusted to fit the child's body correctly.
- Use a pedestrian crossing where possible. Take care whenever you cross. Cars don't always stop, even when they should.
- Children aged up to 10 years old should always be supervised when near traffic. Children aged up to 8 years old should always hold an adult's hand when crossing the road or walking near traffic.
- Make sure your children always wear a helmet when riding a bike – it's the law.
- Children aged up to 12 years should ride their bikes on the footpath or away from the road – around 10% of child road casualties are cyclists.
- If your children catch a bus, train or ferry to school, always walk with them to and from the bus stop, station or wharf.

Safety messages to discuss with your children

Children can also help reduce risks by learning and following some simple rules.

- Click Clack Front 'and' Back when in a car.
- Use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car.
- Hold a grown-up's hand when on the footpath, in a car park or crossing the road.
- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! when crossing the road.
- Cross the road at a pedestrian crossing where possible.
- When getting off a bus wait until the bus has gone before using a safe place to cross the road.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bike and don't ride on busy roads.

Your safety door sticker

Attach this sticker to the rear, footpath-side door of your car to encourage children to use this door when getting in and out of the car.



Roads and Traffic Authority

The information in this brochure is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice. It does not replace the relevant legislation. *Move Ahead with Street Sense* is a road safety education program delivered as part of the PDHPE program in all NSW primary schools.

For further enquiries www.rta.nsw.gov.au | 1800 06 06 07