

## SAFETY IN THE CAR

Each year, more than 8,000 children are killed or injured while travelling in cars. Most of these crashes happen on short journeys, like the journey to school.

### Did you know?

All children under 12 years old who are under 135cm in height have to use an appropriate child restraint. It's the law and you could be prosecuted if your child is not in a car seat or using a booster seat.



More importantly, your child faces the threat of serious injury, or even death, if they are travelling unrestrained in a vehicle. If the car that they are in crashes at any speed your child will be thrown forward and will hit whatever is in front of them.

Adult seat belts are not designed for small children as they don't sit across the right parts of the body. If your child isn't in the correct booster or car seat, they could be injured by the seat belt in a crash.

**Child car passengers have been killed in collisions as low as 7mph.** Make sure that your child is protected every time they travel in a car.

For more information on child car seats or to request a copy of the 'Good Egg Guide to In-Car Child Safety' please contact Knowsley's Road Safety Team or visit: [www.goodeggcarsafety.com](http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com)



## DANGEROUS PARKING!

Inconsiderate and dangerous parking is one of the biggest safety issues outside Primary Schools.

Parked cars can hide children from passing drivers and stop children from being able to see approaching traffic.



Almost half of the young children injured as pedestrians have had their view of the road blocked by a parked car.

How would you feel if your parking contributed towards a child being injured?

**If you have to bring your child to school by car please think about where you choose to stop or park.**



### Did you know?

Parking or waiting on zig zag markings or double yellow lines is an offence (this includes sitting in a car with the engine running!) It could lead to a prosecution or a fine.

# HOW SAFE IS YOUR CHILD?

## TRAFFIC IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST KILLERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



**It is essential that you begin teaching your child about road safety now.**

[roadsafety@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafety@knowsley.gov.uk)

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Knowsley Council

# HELP YOUR CHILD TO STAY SAFE

## PROTECT THEM!

Now that your child has started school, traffic is one of the biggest threats to their life. Every year more than 19,000 children in Britain are killed or injured in road traffic collisions.

Help your child to understand the dangers that they face on the road. Even at a young age they can begin to learn how they can keep themselves safe.

### Your child needs to understand ...

- The importance of always **stopping at the kerb** before crossing (and what could happen if they don't do this);
- That traffic can come from **many different directions** (not just left and right);
- That they have to **look properly** in all directions (moving their head so that they can see all around);
- The importance of **listening** carefully for traffic (that you can often hear traffic before you see it);
- That parked cars can stop them from seeing properly if they stand near them (and that passing drivers may not see them behind a parked car).

Some of this may seem obvious to an adult, but young children often say "look both ways" or "left and right" and don't realise that traffic can come from many directions (e.g. from behind or around a corner). They often don't look properly and point with their finger rather than actually moving their head to look carefully in every direction.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Young children learn by doing so the best place for you to teach your child is at the roadside. This way they are more likely to understand and remember what they have learnt.



## WHERE TO START

While you're walking, hold their hand, put them in charge then ask them to get you across the road safely.

### Did they ...

- Stop at the kerb?
- Look **properly** in **all** directions and listen?
- Stand where they could see in all directions?

**If the answer to any of these questions is no, then work with your child on these areas.**

## PRACTICE

Every time you are near roads, walking to and from school or to the shops, **get your child to lead you and show you** how to cross. This way you will see if they are beginning to understand what they need to do.

Teaching your child at the roadside is a far more effective way for them to learn. Simply teaching a young child a set of rules such as 'Stop, look and listen' or the 'Green Cross Code' does not mean that they will do it in practice, or even understand what they should do. Even very young children can say 'Stop, look and listen' but they often don't do this and would walk or run straight into a road.

**Get out with your child and check what they do!**

## SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Young children often like to copy their parents behaviour so be aware of this whenever you are crossing a road.

Please remember that they may copy bad habits as well as safer ones;

- If you don't stop and look for traffic will they?
- If they see you crossing when the red man is showing what will they do?

**If your child sees you taking risks near roads what will they do when you are not with them?**

**Remember, young children can be very impulsive and are easily distracted so even if you think that your child understands how to stay safe it is vital that you supervise them at all times.**