

Help Keep Children Safe in School Zones



- Reduce collisions in school zones
- Encourage active transportation
- Teach kids about road safety



**Manitoba
Public Insurance**

Nearly 30% of pedestrians struck by vehicles are 5-19 years old.

The risk of a child pedestrian-vehicle collision is especially high before and after school due to:

- ✓ The increase of vehicles in the area
- ✓ Children on or near the roadway
- ✓ School buses and parents dropping off or picking up students

Traffic congestion and speeding greatly increase the risk of collisions in school zones.

Parents play a critical role in ensuring the safety of children. Follow these tips when taking your kids to school to protect them on the road.



Reduce traffic congestion

Walk, cycle, or carpool

Walking or cycling to school is an excellent way to get exercise, reduce pollution, and meet other parents and kids. It also is a great way to save money and have fun with your children.

Using active forms of transportation reduces the number of vehicles entering the school zone and decreases the risk of collisions.

If your child can not take the school bus and walking or cycling is not possible, arrange to carpool with other parents and kids. This will reduce the number of vehicles traveling in the area.



Do not enter school parking lots

Many schools have limited their parking lots to school buses and staff. This greatly reduces traffic around the school, decreases the risk of a collision, and encourages walking to school. Or, park a block or two away and walk the rest of the way with your children.

Obey "No Parking" and "No Stopping" signs

These signs are in place to reduce congestion and to allow school buses to reach their designated drop-off areas. Failing to obey them could lead to a traffic ticket.



Help prevent collisions

Slow down

Lowering your speed decreases the time it takes to react and stop the vehicle, which may prevent a collision.

If a collision does occur, a child hit by a vehicle traveling 50 km/h has only a 20% chance of survival. At 30 km/h, the chance of survival is 95%.

(Safe Kids Canada)



Be alert

Small children can be unpredictable. Watch for children who may unexpectedly dart out into traffic or between parked cars.

Always stop for school patrols and children at designated crosswalks

School patrols and crosswalks are in place to allow pedestrians to safely cross the street. Please observe and respect them.

Avoid reversing and making U-turns

Driver visibility is reduced when reversing and making U-turns, which means it is harder to see small children. These irregular vehicle movements are also hard for kids to notice or understand, making them more likely to enter the path of the vehicle.



Do not pass a stopped school bus or other vehicles

It is extremely dangerous to pass a stopped school bus. You may not be able to see kids who are getting off and then crossing in front of the bus. The fine for passing a stopped school bus is over \$640. The fine for passing a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian or passing in a pedestrian corridor is over \$140. Both convictions also come with a decrease in your Driver Safety Rating.



Help your child get to school safely

Always let your children out of your vehicle from the door closest to the sidewalk

Letting kids out onto the sidewalk ensures they will be protected from traffic.

Drop kids off near intersections or crosswalks

If they must cross a street after being dropped off, children will be more likely to cross safely and legally.



Teach your kids to:

- ★ Only cross streets at clearly marked crosswalks and intersections.
- ★ Try to cross the street where school patrols are on duty.
- ★ Look both ways when crossing the street and only cross when it is safe to do so.
- ★ Walk against traffic if there are no sidewalks, and always look out for vehicles.
- ★ Walk in groups and with an adult whenever possible.
- ★ Always wear a helmet and use hand signals when cycling.



For further information, please contact:

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