

Child safety on road

Children need to learn how to cross the road safely.

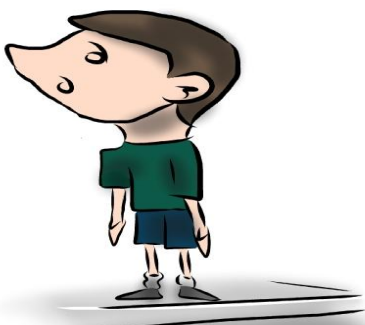
Did you know that?

Traffic causes half of all accidental deaths in childhood. Injuries peak as children reach their teens.

The Green Cross Code is taught in schools but needs to be reinforced from home - and not just by memorising the words, but by parents practicing and explaining the code to their children. Do you know it? Do you follow it? The code is for everyone.

The Green Cross Code

1) Think first

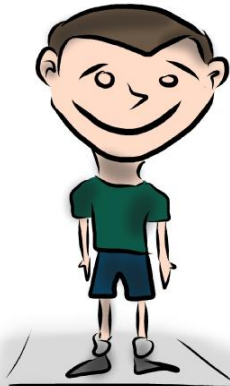


Find a safe place to cross
then stop

1. First find the safest place to cross

- If possible, cross the road at: subways, footbridges, islands, zebra, puffin, pelican or toucan crossings, or where there is a crossing point controlled by a police officer, a school crossing patrol or a traffic warden.
- Otherwise, choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions, and where drivers can see you.
- Try to avoid crossing between parked cars and on sharp bends or close to the top of a hill. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly.
- There should be space to reach the pavement on the other side.

2) Stop



Stand on the pavement
near the kerb

Stop just before you get to the kerb

- Do not get too close to the traffic. If there is no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching traffic.
- Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around.

3) Use your eyes and ears



Look all around for traffic
and listen

Look all around for traffic and listen

- Look all around for traffic and listen.
- Look in every direction.
- Listen carefully because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can see it.

4) Wait 'till it's safe to cross



If traffic is coming, let it pass

- Look all around again and listen.
- Do not cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain that there is plenty of time.
- Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.

5) Look and Listen



When there's no traffic near, walk straight across the road

Look and Listen again

- Look all around again and listen.

6) Arrive Alive



Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross

When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run

- Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly.
- Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists traveling between lanes of traffic.
- Do not cross diagonally.

How you can help your child and other children

- Set a good example by showing your child how you use the Code to cross the road when you're out and about.
- Let your child show you that they know how to cross the road safely – start practising on quiet roads first.
- Point out dangerous places to cross on local roads. Point out safer places as well. Some places may be safer at some times of the day than at others.

TOP TIP:

If you set a good example then you can make sure that your child remains safe and develops road and traffic awareness.

- Use pedestrian crossings even if it involves an extra few yards to walk.
- Talk about the importance of not using a mobile phone or texting while crossing the road.

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- Remind your child that they cannot hear traffic if listening to music through earphones or see it properly if wearing a large hood.


Road safety for children under seven

Children can be safer on the streets if we as Parents or care giver show them how to.

- When you need to cross the road, please don't take any risks because your children will copy you.
- Remember to find the safest place to cross (eg zebra crossing, at traffic lights), then stop, look and listen
- Don't cross the road when the man is red
- Don't use your mobile phone while crossing the road
- Always hold hands with your young child near traffic (or make sure they hold on a pram if you are pushing one)
- Make sure your child walks on the side of the pavement away from the road
- If there is no pavement, walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic

Teaching your child to cross the road safely

- Find the safest place to cross with a clear view all around, away from parked cars, junctions, bends or the brow of a hill if possible. Explain to your child why it's important to choose a place with a clear view
- Tell your child that it's safest to cross at a pedestrian crossing or zebra crossing etc
- Tell your child not to cross where they cant see far along the road
- Let your child help you decide where and when it is safe to cross

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- It can be hard for the drivers to see small children, especially when they are reversing, so take extra care.
 - Holding hands with your child, show them how to stop on the kerb, look all around and listen for traffic before they cross.
 - When there is no traffic coming, walk straight across (not diagonally) and keep looking and listening.
 - Remind your children to concentrate – they may be easily distracted, forget what they have been taught and dash out into the road.

It is normal for parents to worry about road safety, but all children will grow up and start making independent journeys at some point in their life, so it is important for them to feel confident about walking and staying safe on the roads.

The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teach them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This will help them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and be best prepared to be safe on the roads when they are older.

Road safety for 7 to 11 year olds

Did you know that?

Children under nine should always have an adult with them when crossing the road, as they can't judge speed or distances accurately.

At seven years old your child may still be holding your hand as you walk them to school - a few years later your child may be going to school without you. There are several ways your child can be independent while staying safe.

Knowing the Green Cross Code

Remember, children should not be allowed out alone until they are old enough to know the Green Cross Code and use it properly. The age is different for all children but it is generally not before they are eight years old.