



Child Pedestrian Safety FACT SHEET

Child Pedestrian Safety In Communities Project

Pedestrian injury is a substantial cause of child injury in Australia. In the year 2005, 7 young pedestrians aged 5-16 years were killed and 349 were injured on NSW roads. The following information is a guide to help you keep your children safer

WHY do kids need a hand in traffic?

Kids grow up quickly, and constantly surprise us with what they can do, however they are not ready to be left alone around traffic until they are at least 10 years old. This is because:

- kids often say they can look after themselves, but do not understand the dangers and risks involved.
- kids can be unpredictable and difficult for drivers to see.
- kids may have difficulty knowing where traffic sounds are coming from, even when they do remember to listen.
- kids cannot judge the speed or distance of oncoming cars.
- kids think about things that are important to them and forget all about looking for cars.

WHERE do kids need a hand in traffic?

Kids need a hand wherever it is possible a car may be moving. This includes:

- Quiet streets
- Traffic lights
- Busy streets
- Footpaths
- Car parks
- Pedestrian crossings
- Roundabouts
- Local streets
- Shopping centres
- Residential areas
- Driveways
- Around schools.

HOW can parents and adult carers give kids a hand in traffic?

We know that your children's safety is very important to you. Here are a few tips to keep them safer.

Hold hands

- Kids need to be actively supervised in and around traffic. Hold hands with your children when crossing the road, until they are at least 10 years old.
- If your hands are full, make sure your children hold onto a trolley or pram, your bag or even your arm or sleeve.

Set a good example

- Kids are always watching - they want to be just like adults - make sure you always set a good example around traffic.

Talk with your kids about traffic and roads

- As you are walking, talk with your children about why you are stopping, and what you are looking and listening for. Explain to them where it is safer to cross and why.

So remember to help your children be safer pedestrians...



kids need a hand in traffic

