

What are the facts?

Each year, more than 4,000 children in Canada are hit by cars in parking lots, while playing outdoors, or walking to school, a friend's home, a sporting activity, or a neighbourhood store.

A child under nine (9) years old is just not ready to cross the street alone. Most children under nine (9):

- do not understand that being hit by a car could hurt or kill them;
- are shorter than adults making it harder for them to see a car and for the driver to see them;
- may not be able to tell if a car is moving or how fast it is going; and
- have trouble waiting and may run out into the street.



Be Aware. Know where your child is and what they are doing.

Be There. To help them cross the street or parking lot safely.

An elephant may never forget ...but kids do

Teaching young children how to be safe will give them skills to last all their life. Many times a young child may forget how to be safe.

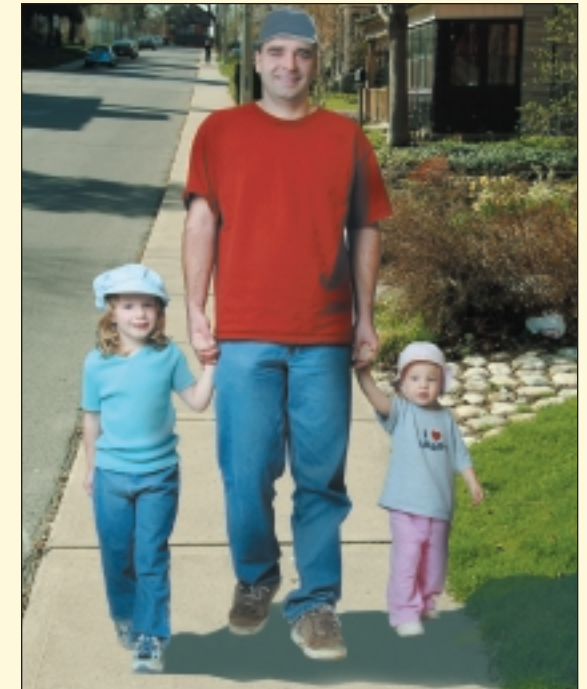
Always watch your child closely and repeat the rules or sing a safety song every time you cross the street together.

Helpful Hint for Parking Lots

If your arms are full in a parking lot, ask your child to hold onto your pocket or shirt, or carry the shopping bag with you. Tell them again and again, "Don't let go." Reward their good work with a high five or hug.

Keeping Children Safe Outdoors

Fun Ways to Teach Your Kids



Stop Look Listen Together

www.ebmonkey.ca

Where and when to start?

It is never too early to teach a child how to be safe when outside. Here are some ways to teach them about safety outside.

Stop Look Listen: Say it Out Loud

If a child is walking, or even sitting in a stroller, each time you cross the street tell your child to **Stop Look Listen**.

Stop before you cross the street and say, “It is time to **stop** our moving feet.”

Look all around (left, right, in front, behind) for moving cars and bicycles. Say out loud, “**Look** for moving cars. Are there moving cars over here? Are there moving cars over there?”

Listen for sounds. Ask the child, “**Listen**. Do you hear anything that is not safe?”

If it is safe to go, say, “No moving cars, it is safe to cross.” If it is not safe, explain, “There is a moving car. We need to wait until it is safe.”

This is a great habit to start. In no time your child will be telling you how to safely cross the street.

That’s My “Job”

Many children are hurt when they run into the road to cross the street or to get a toy (e.g., ball or skateboard) that has rolled away. Every time you are outside with your child, repeat the rule that they can not go into the street until you, the adult, do your “job”. That is, hold their hand and tell them it is safe to go. Tell them it is also your job to get a toy from the road together with them.

Signs, signals, and lights

Teach your child the signs, signals, and lights found in your community.



Stop Sign:

Stop and wait until an adult says it is safe to go.



Traffic Light:

Red light means stop. Do not cross the street.

Yellow light means get ready to stop and wait.

Green light means go. Cross the street when an adult says it is safe.



Pedestrian Signal:

Orange hand means stop and do not cross the street.

Orange flashing hand means do not start to cross the street. It is okay to keep going if you are in the middle of the street.



Walking man means you can walk across the street when an adult says it is safe.

Games

Scavenger Hunt

This is a great way to teach children about the road signs by your home. Show your child the signs on this page and tell them what they mean. Bring this paper outside with you and ask the child to find one of the signs on your walk. After they find it ask them what it means.

Reward their good work with a high five, hug, and/or praise (e.g., “Great job. I knew you could find the _____.”)

Red Light – Green Light (Stop and Go)

This is a fun way to teach children the difference between red and green lights and when to stop or go. Use something to mark the start and finish lines. Explain that when you say “Green Light” your child can walk to you and the finish line. When you say, “Red Light” your child has to stop and freeze in place. Keep going until your child reaches you.

For younger children, simply use the words “Stop” and “Go”.

Holding Hands 101

When outside ask your child to hold your hand. This way you can keep them safe and guide them away from danger. Play holding hand games. Ask your child to count out loud with you the number of times you softly squeeze their hand. Change the number each time. Try different speeds or patterns.