

School Zones are for Kids - Safety Tips for Families

Use this sheet as a guide to discuss pedestrian safety around school zones and on routes to school.

Not All Drivers Follow the Rules

While many drivers are careful, some may:

- Drive too fast
- Fail to stop at crosswalks
- Turn without looking
- Be distracted (phones, etc.)



What Kids Should Remember

Teach your child this simple rule:

● STOP - LOOK - LISTEN - THINK

STOP at the curb

LOOK left-right-left and behind

LISTEN for cars that you can't see

THINK: Is the driver stopping? Are all cars fully stopped?



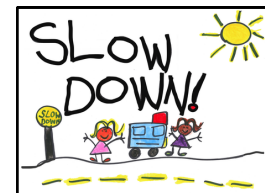
Safety Tips for Students

- Use the crosswalk when it is available
- Listen to the crossing guard
- Look into cars at drivers
- Never assume a car will stop
- Stay focused—no running into the road



Safety Tips for Caregivers

- Model safe crossing behaviour
- Stay alert when walking together
- Talk about unsafe driver behaviours and how to respond
- Avoid distractions when driving
- Slow down near children
- Do not park or stop illegally in school areas - restricted areas need to be empty for student pedestrian sight lines and for safe traffic passage
- Remain stopped until the Crossing Guard returns to the sidewalk
- Remember children's sight lines are much lower than yours and they cannot predict vehicle movements like adults can



School Zones are for Kids - Safety Tips for Families

Conversation Starter

Ask your child:

- “What would you do if a car doesn’t stop?”
- “How can you make sure a driver sees you?”

Activity

Map out your walk to school!

1. Use GoogleMaps to zone in on the roads between your home and school.
2. Print a map as a base for your route drawings OR draw the roads yourself!
3. Identify your preferred safe route from home to school together based on familiarity, safety, infrastructure, and friends who live along the way.

4. Identify special areas:

- a. Best spots to cross along the way
- b. Signalized crossings
- c. Crossing Guard locations
- d. 4-way or 2-way stops
- e. Sidewalks to follow
- f. Multi-use pathways
- g. Railway crossings
- h. Familiar landmarks that help orient your child

5. Talk about **STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK**

- a. Talk about always obeying traffic signals
- b. Talk about watching for trains on all tracks
- c. Talk about walking promptly but not running
- d. Talk about the best place to cross near or in the school zone
- e. Look for marked crossings
- f. Avoid crossing at curves in the road that make it difficult to see a distance
- g. Talk about how crossing from between vehicles means drivers won’t expect them
- h. Mention that drivers in large/high vehicles (trucks and SUVs) and buses may not see them because of sight lines in many situations
- i. Talk about traffic manoeuvres that might be difficult to recognize or assess like U-turns, cars backing up, and dangerous parking that might block sight lines



Practice!

Walk the route together with your family several times to identify or confirm potential hazards until all the adults know the children feel comfortable and safe making the journey themselves.