

Walking on rural roads

Help your child to:

- Walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Keep as far off the road as possible.
- Walk in single file, shortest person at the front, so everyone can see oncoming traffic.
- Listen very carefully. Vehicles can approach at high speed and be heard long before they are seen.
- If a vehicle is coming, stop and stay back from the roadside until it has passed.
- If you can't see the road ahead clearly, be extra careful.

If there's a narrow bridge, stop in a safe place and:

- Listen carefully and scan the distance to make sure there are no vehicles coming.
- Go onto the bridge and walk quickly across, facing oncoming vehicles.
- Keep looking and listening for any vehicles that come from behind or in front.

What else can I do to help my child be safer when walking?

- If you usually drive to school, park your car further away from the school and then walk some of the way with your child so they learn about road safety with you.
- Try a walking bus, where children walk to school in an organised group. Talk to your school. They may have walking buses.

Driveways

Teach your child to watch for vehicles.

If a vehicle is blocking the footpath, show them the following steps:

- Check inside the vehicle to see if there's a driver.
- If you can see a driver, stop a couple of metres away and wait to see if they are going to move.
- If you can't see a driver, look and listen for signs the vehicle may move soon:
 - exhaust fumes
 - reverse lights
 - engine noise.
- If there's no driver in the car and the engine isn't running, walk around the vehicle on the house side.
- If there's no room on the house side, walk carefully around on the road side, looking and listening for traffic from all directions. Or go back and find a safe place to cross the road using the kerb drill.

KERB DRILL

1. Stop one step back from the kerb.
2. Look and listen for traffic coming from all directions.
3. If there is traffic coming, wait until it has passed and then look and listen for traffic again.
4. If there is no traffic coming, walk quickly straight across the road.
5. While crossing, look and listen for traffic, wherever it may come from.

If there are no crossings or traffic signals, talk about and show your children how to find a safe place to cross.

For more information

For general enquiries, or more information about road and rail safety for children, please email info@nzta.govt.nz or visit education.nzta.govt.nz.

