

# Walking

Teach your child about how to be safe when walking together or alone.

- Go to the roadside near your home and kneel down so you are the same height as your child.
- Ask your child what they can actually see or hear from their point of view.
- Children can't judge traffic and may not be thinking about what they are doing right then – like trying to cross the road safely.

**Young children should always hold the hand of a responsible older person when walking near traffic.**

Teach your child how to do the following (and explain why they need to):

- Walk on the footpath, close to the houses and away from the road.
- Look and listen for traffic at driveways (some driveways are difficult to see).
- Use pedestrian crossings or cross at traffic signals, wherever possible.
- Take care in car parks, school drop-off/pick-up points or busy shopping areas with lots of traffic.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic on roads where there are no footpaths.
- Share the footpath with others, including skaters, scooters, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

If there are no crossings or traffic signals, talk about and show your child how to:

- Find a safe place to cross.
- Always use the kerb drill.

## For more information

For general enquiries, or more information about road and rail safety for children, please email [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz) or visit [education.nzta.govt.nz](http://education.nzta.govt.nz).

# 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.

