

Talking points for teachers and parents

These resources include talking points to spark a road safety conversation between children and their teachers or parents.

You will also find suggested answers and WA road rules to help guide what could be a potentially life-saving conversation for our young road users.

Crossing the road

What are some of the things we can do to make sure we cross the road safely?

- Stop, look, listen and think:
 - **Stop** one step back from the kerb.
 - **Look** and **listen** for traffic.
 - **Think** and decide if it is safe to cross.
 - Keep looking and listening while crossing the road safely.
- Hold a grown-up's hand.
- Walk, don't run across the road.
- Use a school crossing, zebra crossing or pedestrian crossing at traffic lights.
- Make sure your walk includes safe points to cross the road.
- Avoid crossing at busy intersections without traffic lights.

When can you cross the road at a set of traffic lights?

- If the man is green, and it is safe to do so, you can cross the road.
- When the man is red and flashing, you can continue to cross the road but not start crossing.
- If the man is red and not flashing, you must wait for the green man to begin crossing.

Did you know that drivers turning a corner are required to give way to pedestrians crossing that road? But unfortunately, not all drivers follow the rules.

What tips would you give to someone who needs to cross the road where there are no traffic lights?

- Check that drivers have seen you.
- Make eye contact – and be sure that they will give way.
- Keep looking for turning vehicles.
- Stop and give way to vehicles going straight ahead or turning out of the road you are crossing.

Seatbelts

What is the first thing you need to do when you get into the car?

Make sure you have your seatbelt on. Your parents or the driver are responsible for making sure you are wearing a seatbelt, but if they forget to buckle you in or you don't feel safe in your seatbelt, speak up and let them know.

Why do we need to wear a seatbelt?

Seatbelts save lives! If the driver of the car you are a passenger in needs to brake suddenly, you are much safer than if you don't have the proper seatbelt on.

Did you know that there are different child car restraints for different ages?

Children up to the age of at least seven need to be in a child seat or booster seat. But if you still fit in a booster seat after you turn seven, it is safer to keep using it until you grow tall enough to use a regular seatbelt.

Other seatbelt facts:

- Did you know that it is compulsory for people to wear seatbelts in Western Australia since 1971?
- Child car restraints, including your booster seat, for children aged between 1 and 7 years have been compulsory since 1977. That's 42 years ago! Probably before your parents were born!

Distractions

What is something that may distract the driver of a vehicle?

- Using a mobile phone.
- Kids arguing or yelling out in the back seat.
- Reaching or searching for something in the car.
- Changing the radio station or music.

Why is it dangerous to be distracted when driving the car?

- Distracted driving is dangerous as it takes a driver's eyes away from the road.
- The driver is thinking about what is happening inside the car instead of being aware of what's happening on the roads around them.
- It puts everyone in the car at risk.

How can you help the driver keep their mind on driving and the road and not be distracted?

- Be quiet while travelling in the car. Perhaps read a book, play quietly with some toys or chat nicely with other children in the car.
- Remind the driver that it's not ok and dangerous to use their phone while driving.
- Choose the music you want to listen to before you begin your journey.

Helmets

When should you wear a helmet?

- Riding a bike
- Using a scooter
- Riding a skateboard
- Using roller-skates

Why do we need to wear a helmet when riding, scooting or skating?

- If you fall from your bike, scooter, skateboard or skates, a helmet will protect your head from injury.

How do you wear a helmet correctly?

- Check for the standards sticker on the helmet showing it is safety approved and meets the Australian Standard (AS 2063, AS/NZS 2063).
- Your parents will need to measure your head with a measuring tape to make sure you are wearing the right sized helmet.
- Make sure your helmet fits correctly: put your hands-on top of your head and try to move the helmet.
- Your helmet is fitted incorrectly, the wrong size or the straps are not adjusted properly if it moves or slides easily forwards, backwards or to the side when the clip.
- When the helmet is fastened it should be squarely positioned on your head, and the front rim should sit on the forehead just above the eyebrows.
- Make sure the straps aren't twisted.