



Hold my hand

Dear family

Do you know why young children have difficulty coping with a traffic environment?

They may have a short concentration span or be thinking about one thing at a time and ignoring other things happening around them. In traffic this can be very dangerous.

They have trouble judging the speed of vehicles. They may let a slow vehicle pass and cross in front of a fast one.

They are less likely to take notice of objects not directly in front of them. Unless they deliberately turn their heads they may not notice vehicles to their right or left.

They may often have problems working out where sounds are coming from. They may expect traffic to come from the wrong direction.



They are likely to be easily distracted especially in the company of friends.

They may have a poorly developed concept of danger.

They may be able to say when the road is clear and safe to cross, but a sudden change in traffic conditions can cause confusion and panic.

They are unlikely to change from the chosen path, even if it is dangerous.

They often have trouble stopping at the kerb especially if excited and may dart out onto the road without thinking.

Your child has been learning about the importance of always holding an adult's hand in the traffic environment, especially when they are:

- walking along the footpath or away from the road edge
- crossing the road
- in a car park.

Here are some things to talk about and practise with your child.

- ✓ Always hold an adult's hand on the footpath, crossing the road or in a car park.
- ✓ Hold onto the pram, stroller, trolley, shopping bag or an adult's clothing if their hand is not available.

At home activity

Trace around each other's hand on a piece of paper. Cut around the traced hands and place them together on the fridge to remind your child to always hold hands with you or an adult in the traffic environment.

Make sure your child knows who they can trust to help them cross the road.

Thank you for playing a vital role in your child's road safety education.

Yours sincerely

Classroom Teacher