



## Safer places to cross

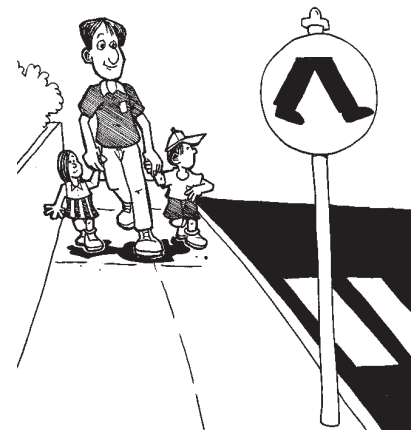
### Dear family

Children are not always able to be responsible for their own safety when crossing roads. This is because they have:

- under-developed peripheral vision and directional hearing
- difficulty judging speed and distance of vehicles
- not developed the skills to search the traffic environment
- a tendency to be easily distracted and are unpredictable
- a smaller stature making it difficult for drivers to see them.

It is important that you supervise your child when crossing roads and talk about where it is safer to cross. These safer places include:

- places with a clear view of traffic in every direction
- pedestrian crossings
- roads with a median strip in the middle
- underpass/overpass
- traffic lights with pedestrian phasings
- supervised children's crossing
- the maze crossing at rail lines.



Here are some important points to remember when teaching your child how to cross the road.

- ✓ The safest places to cross are at marked crossings, traffic lights, median islands or where there is a traffic attendant.
- ✓ If there is no special crossing, it is safer to cross on a straight flat section of road.
- ✓ When crossing at an intersection, stand where all traffic can be seen and where drivers can see you and your child. Check for turning traffic before crossing.
- ✓ Remind your child it is unsafe to cross between parked cars. However, when this is the only choice, your child should select a gap between two cars which have no drivers and walk to the outside corners of the car. They should stop where they can see traffic and be seen by traffic (i.e. in line with the outside edge of the cars) before using the safe crossing procedure.

### At home activity

Take your child on a walk in the local area to find safer places to cross (see list above) and use this time to practise crossing the road. Remember to demonstrate to your child how to **Stop Look Listen Think** then cross.

If you have a set of traffic lights with pedestrian signals, please help your child to:

- identify the red 'DON'T WALK' signal and what it means
- identify the green 'WALK' signal and what it means
- practise not leaving the footpath if the red 'DON'T WALK' signal is showing
- practise crossing only when the green 'WALK' signal is showing
- practise pressing the button and waiting for the green 'WALK' signal to appear
- understand that cars are supposed to stop when the 'WALK' sign appears, but sometimes they might not.

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

Yours sincerely

Classroom Teacher