

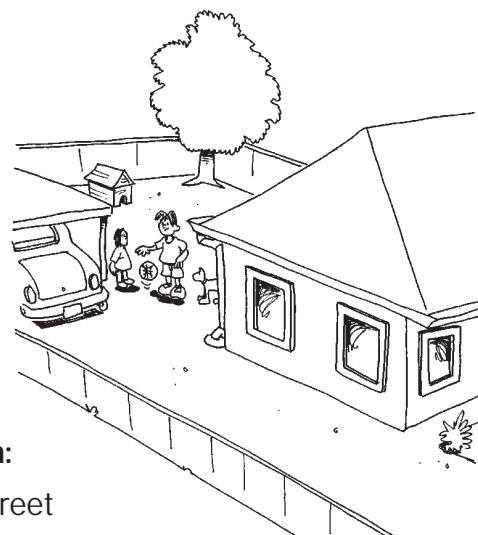


Off-road injuries

Dear family

We don't always think of children being in danger in their own home; however, more than one-third of children aged under six years of age killed in motor vehicle accidents were killed 'off-road'. (Kidsafe 2003)

Off-road injury occurs on driveways, in car parks, on properties and private roads and involves cars or other vehicles.



Off-road injuries often result from every day incidents when:

- a child is playing in an unfenced play area or in the street
- a relative or family friend is driving off or returning home
- the car is reversing
- the driver has no idea that a child is behind the vehicle
- the adult who is supervising the child is unaware that the child has moved away.

Parents, family members or friends are usually the drivers when children are injured off-road. Even when drivers use mirrors while reversing, visibility behind the car is limited.

What can you do to prevent a tragedy?

- ✓ Always supervise your children whenever a vehicle is to be moved. Hold their hands and keep them close to ensure their safety.
- ✓ If you're the only adult at home and need to move a vehicle, even only a small distance, place children securely in the vehicle while you move it.
- ✓ A driveway is actually a small road. Discourage children from using it as a play area.
- ✓ Make access to the driveway from the house difficult for a child, possibly using security doors, fencing or gates.
- ✓ Always ensure your children wear protective clothing and a helmet when riding motorbikes and quad bikes around the property.

Safer places to play and ride at home

Help your child find places around the home where it is safer to play or ride, then they can draw these in the box.

Driveway plan

As a family, decide on where your child/ren should stand when cars are coming in or going out of your property. For example, a family rule may be: Everyone stays on the verandah until an adult says it is safe.

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

Yours sincerely

Classroom Teacher