



# Walking to school

## Teach your child to cross only at safe places

Show your child places where they can cross safely such as pedestrian crossings, even if this means having to walk a bit further.

## Explain why paying attention when walking is important

This doesn't just mean the obvious hazards like speeding cars but also less evident ones such as cars coming around corners suddenly or vehicles not stopping at pedestrian crossings. Explaining the reasons for staying alert while walking helps children to understand more clearly why something is expected of them, especially if they know the consequences of not paying adequate attention or of not practising basic safety precautions.

## Driveways can be dangerous

Remind your child that drivers backing out of driveways cannot see very well and don't always think to look for children. The same goes for laneways and street corners. Always insist that your child stay alert and not expect drivers to be doing the same. Teach your child what to do if a car suddenly comes out of a driveway such as jumping back and not proceeding any further into the car's path.

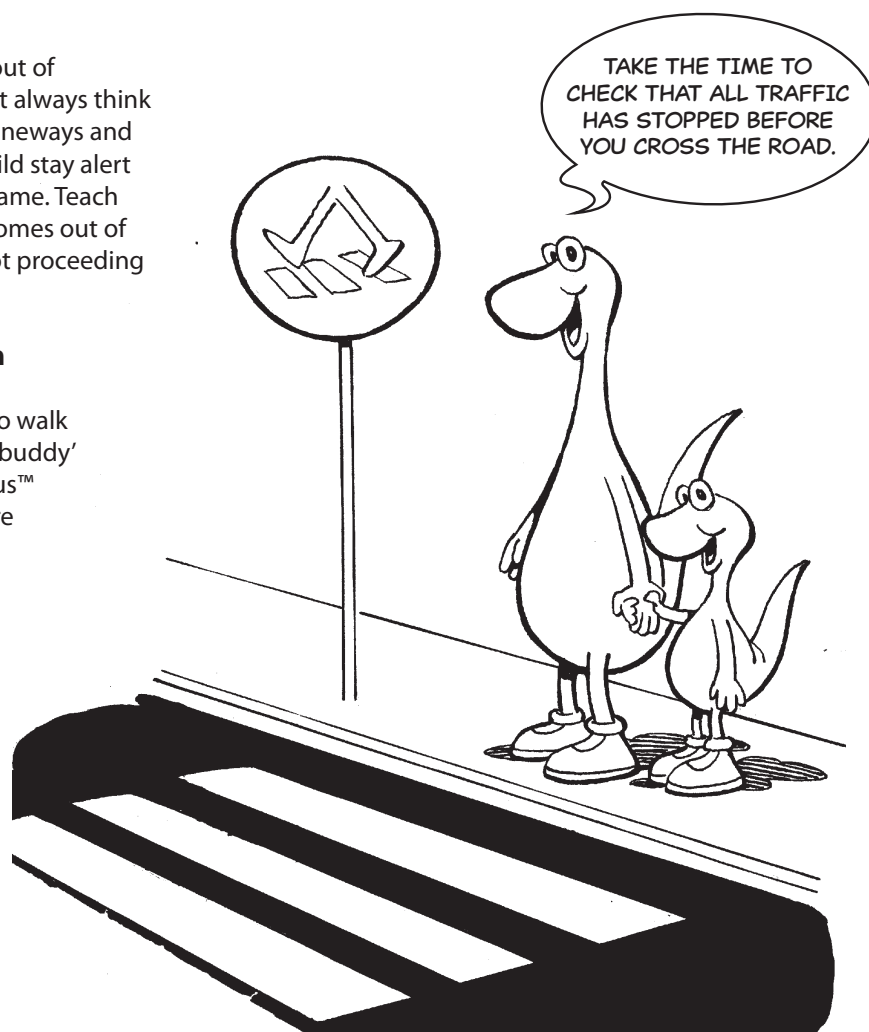
## Arrange for your child to walk with another child if possible

It might not always be possible for you to walk your child to school so set up a 'walking buddy' or find out if there is a Walking School Bus™ near you. A Walking School Bus™ is where several parents take responsibility for walking a group of children to and from school.

For further information on Walking School Bus™ contact the Department of Transport.

## Be a good road safety role model

Unfortunately, adults break a number of road rules every day and children see this and think that it's okay for them to do. Be open with your child about it and explain that adults shouldn't be doing this either but they get lazy or think they know better. Also make it clear that adults tend to rely on their height to help them see more than your child can. Explain to your child that adults sometimes get injured and killed not doing the right thing when crossing streets, and that it is never a good idea to follow adults who are breaking the rules.



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