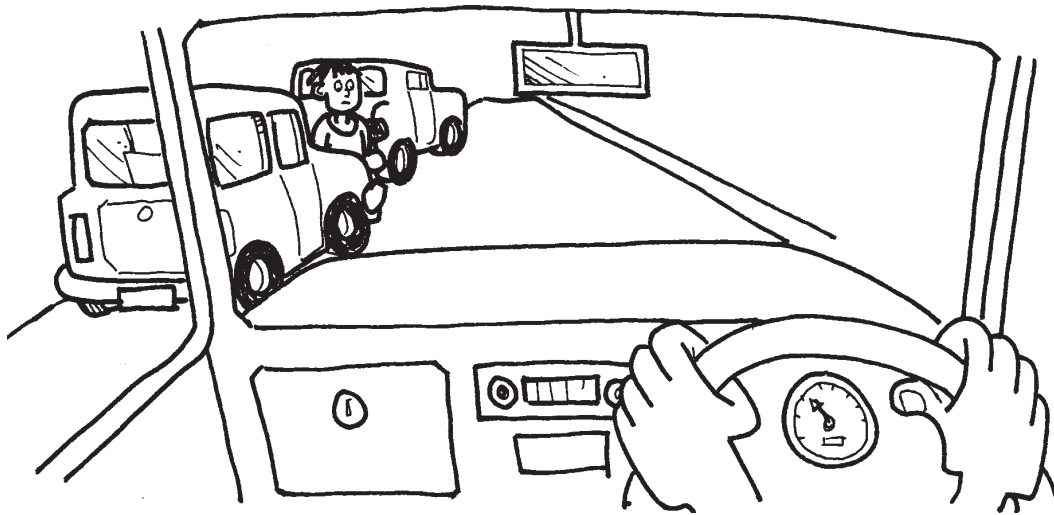




Know your speed

One key risk for pedestrians is the speed that vehicles around them are travelling. The slower the speed the quicker the driver can stop the car – especially when a child dashes out onto the road.



Your child has learnt that the distance taken for a vehicle to stop in an emergency depends on the driver's thinking time and braking time, as well as the weather and road conditions.

Thinking time
+ Braking time
= Stopping distance

This is how long it would take your car to stop in an emergency if you were alert, had not been drinking alcohol, had a roadworthy vehicle and the roads were dry.

Speed	Stopping distance
40km/h	17.4 metres
60km/h	32 metres
80km/h	53.6 metres



When you are driving in the car with your child, talk about:

- The decisions you need to make when pedestrians are on or near the road.
- The laws you are following to be a safer driver eg stopping for pedestrians who want to cross at a crosswalk.
- The errors made by other road users.

Help your child learn about vehicle speed. Ask your child to:

- guess the speed of the car they are travelling in (without looking at the speedometer)
- guess the speed of an approaching car and also how many seconds it will take before the car passes the car you are travelling in
- guess the speed of vehicles when you are out walking or cycling.

Teach your child to always use the stop, look, listen and think procedure before stepping onto the road and make safe decisions when they are out walking.

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

