

# Hold my hand and keep me safe

It takes many years for young children to be able to make safe decisions independently whenever cars and other vehicles are about – near roads, footpaths, car parks, driveways, bicycle tracks, unfenced yards, homes and farms.

The best way to protect children near vehicles is to always hold their hands.



## When you are out and about with children, remember to:

- hold their hands to keep them safe
- be consistent – “If we don’t hold hands, we don’t go out!”
- help children to hold onto a pram, your bag or clothing if your hand is not available. If possible, put your hand over the child’s hand for added security
- give lots of positive feedback and encouragement when children hold your hand
- be a safe role model and talk with the children in your care about all the things you do to keep safe
- listen carefully to what children say to check their understanding of the road safety messages. Children may be able to say the words but this doesn’t mean they understand them or can put them into practice.



**Hold their hands until they are at least 8 years old. Closely and actively supervise children up to at least the age of 10 years.**

## Watching children is not enough!

Injuries to young children often happen:

- when a child is walking with an adult, but not holding hands
- when a child is close to home, playing in a quiet street or driveway that is considered safe from traffic
- when a supervising adult is unaware a child has slipped away
- when a child is playing in an unfenced play area
- when a relative or family friend is driving off or returning home.

Boys are twice as likely to be killed or injured as pedestrians than girls.



**Adults are responsible for the safety of young children in and near traffic.**

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