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.

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