

# Grandparents and grandchildren, out and about together

Grandparents play an important role in the lives of many families and are often involved in the day-to-day care of grandchildren. This can include drop-offs and pick-ups at early childhood services or schools, journeys to shops, parks and organised activities as well as caring for children in the home.

It can be challenging to keep young children safe as passengers, when walking with them and while they're playing. Young children are still developing the skills and understandings needed to keep safe in and around vehicles, so all the adults in their lives must take responsibility for their safety.



## Why are young children at risk?

we are fast and can quickly move from safety into danger

we can be easily distracted

our reflexes are still developing so our reactions take longer

we want to do things by ourselves but don't understand the dangers of the traffic environment



we are curious and keen to explore and learn about our surroundings

we are small so we are very hard for drivers to see

we often behave unpredictably



## When caring for young children always ...

- Hold their hands, hold them close or buckle them up safely in a pram or stroller whenever you're walking - anywhere cars are or could be.
- Actively supervise them while they play and ensure play spaces are fenced or separated from vehicles, driveways and roadways.
- Buckle them up correctly in a properly fitted and adjusted child car seat, right for their age and size.
- Share the *Kids and Traffic* Key Road Safety Messages with them.



Talk with children about all the things you do together to keep safe.



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## Grandparents ... speaking from experience

Hazel is often out and about with her four young grandchildren ...

*“My four year old granddaughter is happy to hold my hand when we’re walking but her younger brother prefers to be carried. He’s quite a stocky three year old so it’s hard going sometimes! He’s not as willing to hold my hand and is a bit of a risk taker so carrying him seems to be a safer option at the moment.”*

Every child is different with their own personality, temperament, likes and dislikes. It can be challenging to make sure they’re always being protected from the dangers of moving vehicles. Maintaining close physical contact with young children is the best way to keep them safe.

Bev and Ken are grandparents to two year old Isabella ...

Bev says...

*“I have arthritis so lifting, bending down and twisting to get Isabella in the car seat and stroller can be tricky. To start with both of us also had trouble working out how to use the buckles and harnesses on the stroller and car seat ... it takes practice to get back into the swing of things when looking after little ones after a long break.”*

Ken says...

*“When we’re walking, holding hands can be a challenge particularly when she’s excited – she’s only little but she’s very fast!”*

Grandparents often need to use a variety of strategies to keep their grandchildren safe. Talk with the other adults in their lives to make sure you are all using safe travel practices. Visit our *Kids and Traffic* website for road safety songs, stories and games to share with your grandchildren.

## They’re counting on you...

... to **SUPERVISE** them near vehicles, to **SEPARATE** play areas from driveways and to **SEE** where they are at all times.



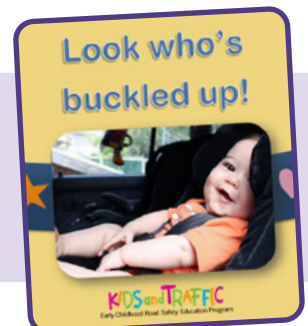
Watch Transport for NSW's driveway safety video with Scott Cam 'They're counting on you' to find out how to reduce driveway danger and keep kids safe from low speed vehicle runovers.

## Make sure your grandchildren are always safely buckled up...

Visit [www.childcarseats.com.au](http://www.childcarseats.com.au) to find and compare child car seats for children of different ages and sizes and to learn more about the legal requirements for keeping children safe in vehicles.



Visit our website to view the '[Look who's Buckled Up](#)' video-story with your grandchildren.



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