

Good Choices

Crossing with crosswalk signs or at a stop sign

Crosswalks marked with signs and painted white lines across the street are available at many locations across the city. Crosswalks also exist crossing a street at an intersection with a stop sign even if there are no painted white lines or crosswalk signs. Pedestrians are allowed to cross the street and motorists are required to stop for pedestrians at these locations.

Choices Needing Extra Attention

Crossing where there is no crosswalk

Pedestrians are allowed to cross most streets in the city even if no crosswalks are available. However, motorists are not required to yield to pedestrians at these locations and therefore some additional tips are needed:

- Find an area to cross where traffic volumes are lower.
- Find an area to cross where you can see very far in either direction. You want to be able to completely cross the street before a vehicle would make it to the crosswalk. Avoid curves or hills for example.
- Avoid crossing between parked vehicles or other locations where the motorist's view may be blocked.

General Tips for Crossing a Street

No matter where your child crosses a street there is no guarantee a vehicle will stop. Here are a few tips that are useful no matter where they may cross a street:

- Look both ways before you start to cross the street.
- An extended arm is the universal sign to motorists that a pedestrian wants to cross the street.
- Bright coloured clothing and reflective clothing at night will help a motorist see a pedestrian.
- Make sure the pedestrian can see the driver of a vehicle. If you can't see them, they can't see you.
- If cars are approaching, make sure the car comes to a stop before crossing the street. Don't forget that cars can be approaching from either direction.
- Continue to look both ways until you reach the other side of the street.

contact

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Does your child walk to school?

Choose the safest route.

If your child walks to school, choose the safest route as soon as possible. This guide will show you how to find an excellent route. It will also help you identify routes with risks that need particular attention so you can help your child develop safe behaviours.



Practice walking the route with your child. This lets you reinforce the safest route with your child, and will help your child identify risks and practice safe behaviours on their own.

Only you will be able to tell when your child reaches an age where they can walk to school without supervision. Like most skills in life, a child's ability to make safe decisions while walking to and from school develops over time. Every child develops differently.

Excellent Choices

If you can, choose a street with a sidewalk and curb:

- Sidewalks with a curb create a physical and visual separation between walkers and drivers.
- Pay attention to driveways. A vehicle can cross the path of a pedestrian on a sidewalk at any driveway. Pay attention and note busy driveways or driveways where the motorist and a pedestrian can't see each other (i.e. parked cars, buildings, bushes).

If you walk on a street without a sidewalk:

- Choose streets with less traffic.
- Stay as far to the side of the road as possible.
- Walk on the left side facing traffic.
- Pay attention to busy driveways and driveways where the view is blocked.

Very Good Choices

Crossing at a crosswalk with signals or lights

Many traffic lights in the city have signals for pedestrians.



A pedestrian should start crossing the street only when the person walking symbol lights up.

When the orange hand starts flashing, the pedestrian should wait for the next light to start crossing the street. However, if you have already started crossing the street don't stop when the orange hand starts flashing because you still have enough time to finish crossing the street.

If the orange hand is lit and not flashing, wait for the next person walking symbol to cross the street. You should already be at the other side of the street if you already started crossing.



This signal gives additional information by letting the pedestrian know how much more time they have to finish crossing.

Some traffic lights have buttons that must be pressed in order to make the lights change. Look for these buttons because only some traffic lights have them. The lights won't change immediately but should in a few minutes when the button is pressed.

Crossing at a crosswalk with yellow flashing lights

Some crosswalks in the city have flashing yellow lights on the side of the street, overhead, or both that look something like one of the following:



These types of crosswalks always have buttons for the pedestrians to press. The lights should start flashing as soon as the button is pressed. Either a sound can be heard at these crosswalks when the lights are flashing and the pedestrian can cross or you can see the lights flashing.

