



Road Sense for Children

With 171 children killed and nearly 4,000 seriously injured in the UK in 2003 child road safety is critical. As part of its Road Sense campaign, designed to help improve the safety of drivers, passengers and all road users, carrentals.co.uk outlines some tips for both adults and children to follow to help improve child safety on the roads.

- **Adult responsibility** – Children will copy what their parents, guardians or other respected adults do, so always be sure to act responsibly where road issues are concerned.
- **Be Seen** – With the short days be sure that both adults and children are wearing light or bright coloured clothing in the day time, while from dusk be sure to wear reflective clothing or reflective stickers on your shoes, bag or jackets to help you be seen by motorists.
- **Pavement Policy** – Always walk on the inside of the pavement, well away from the curb. This way if a passing vehicle does come too close to the pavement you are out of reach. If there is no pavement be sure to walk facing on-coming traffic so that you can see and be seen.
- **Listen Out** – Don't just use your eyes when you're out and about, use your ears to listen out for cars and lorries. If you're crossing the road be sure to take off any headphones from personal stereos or MP3 players, and listen out for what could be heading towards you.
- **Criss Cross** – Advise children to always cross at marked crossings, and try to always do so yourself. If there isn't a zebra crossing choose a crossing point away from any corners and be sure you can see traffic coming from both directions

- **Crossing Procedure** – Teach children the seven steps to safe crossing –
 - 1) Find a marked crossing and stop at the curb;
 - 2) Look in all directions – right, left and right again, and keep looking as you cross in case any vehicles come along at speed;
 - 3) Listen out for any vehicles that may not be in view;
 - 4) Make eye contact with any driver coming towards you – that way both of you know the other has seen you;
 - 5) Be sure the vehicles have stopped before you step off the curb;
 - 6) Always obey traffic signs, for example if the red man is flashing at a crossing stay on the curb;
 - 7) Finally walk, don't run across any road, to avoid tripping.

- **Avoid Parking** - Never cross between parked vehicles, particularly vans or lorries, as passing cars may not see you and you may not see them. A parked vehicle may also start to reverse or pull out without warning so particular care must be taken near any parking areas.

- **Danger Alerts** – When crossing a road look out for bus/taxi lanes and cycle lanes. While both can look empty, vehicles or a bicycle can come along very quickly, so check and double check before stepping out.

Disclaimer - These tips are not exhaustive and are for information only. Carrentals.co.uk can not be held responsible for any losses incurred as a result of acting on any information contained herein. We hope you find all of the tips useful to help with road safety.

For further information visit the following sites:

[The Hedgehogs](#)

[Think! Road Safety Campaign](#)

