Keeping your child safer on the roads

all about road safety

parent’s guide

Essex County Council
Road Safety Officers, the Police and Teachers are all concerned with the safety of children on our roads and all play their part to try and keep children safer. But, today and everyday, twenty 5–7 year old children will be injured in road accidents...some will die.

Most of these accidents happen:

- close to home
- after school
- on short car journeys
- and to more boys than girls
Children cannot cope with traffic because:

• they are smaller than adults and cannot see as much

• they find it hard to judge distances and the speed of vehicles

• their attention is not always on the road; they may be daydreaming or involved in an imaginary game

• they are easily distracted by something more interesting

• they are only just beginning to understand danger
Children may need you to guide and protect them:

They learn by watching what you do. Always set a good example whether walking, in the car or on a bus.

• choose the safest routes when walking to the shops or school

• use crossings if there are any and crossing patrols if available

• look for cars coming in and out of driveways

• always wear your seatbelt, in the front or the back of the car

• keep your seatbelt fastened until the car has stopped
School
Walking to school:

• take them to school yourself or ask a friend that you trust. Don’t let them go alone.

• hold your child’s hand, especially near traffic and every time you cross the road

• let your child help you cross the road, choosing the safest places – try not to cross between parked vehicles

• remember to look and listen when you cross

• make sure they use the crossing patrol if there is one available

• Walking helps to teach the children road safety skills, improve everyone’s fitness and reduce pollution and congestion
If you need to take your children to school by car they need a suitable car seat for their age group.

- children must always wear a seatbelt. If you don’t have any in the back, your child is safer in the front.

- by law children must continue to use an appropriate restraint or booster until 12 years of age or until they reach 135cm in height.

- park safely away from the school entrance – keep clear of the zig zag markings, even if you are just ‘dropping off’ your child.

- let your children in and out on the pavement side and see them safely into school.

- most cars only have room for three seat belts in the back - don’t overload on the school run, it may invalidate your insurance.

Remember – rear facing child seats should never be used where a front seat is protected by an air bag.
After school:

• don’t let your children play out in the street (even quiet roads can be dangerous)

• take it in turns with friends to let children play at each others’ houses

• take them to the park or play area and stay with them
Now use the activity sheets with your child.
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Development Highways and Transportation.

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