

What is "Walk Your Child To School" today?

"Walk Your Child To School" today is a program that aims to get children to walk to and from school while accompanied by adults.

Children under 10 years of age are developmentally limited when judging speed and distance accurately. Very young children may not be able to read the street and pedestrian signs. It is important to know the abilities of your own child as all children develop at their own rate.

Well-informed parents and caregivers must teach and reinforce road safety skills in a real environment before children venture out on their own.

For more information

Just a few safety tips to practice with your child while walking to school.



Walk the route your child takes to school to identify possible dangers - choose a safer route if necessary.



Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals and street signs. Explain their meaning and importance.



Instruct children to stop at the curb or edge of the road and to look left, right then left again before crossing a street.



Teach children to always walk on the sidewalk. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing the traffic as far to the left as possible.



Teach children to stop at driveways, alleys, and areas without curbs.



Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars. Never run onto the street.



Observe other people crossing the road. Talk about unsafe behaviour.



Model safe behaviour by teaching your child to cross only at pedestrian crosswalks or at the street corner.



A Guide to Promote Walking to School

Sponsored by the City of Saskatoon's Traffic Safety Committee together with Saskatoon District Health.



Why walk your child to school?

Increased car ownership, pressures on time and fears about children's safety have resulted in more children being driven to school.

Twenty years ago, 90% of children walked to school. Today 50% of the student body is frequently driven to school by parents. This doesn't allow children to practice road safety skills.

Driving children to school puts them at risk. Cars collect along school streets, school parking lots and neighbourhood driveways creating hazards for children who have to dodge around cars in order to enter their school yard.

Pedestrian traffic injuries are a leading cause of serious injury and death among school-aged children.



10 Reasons for walking your child to school today!

- 1 It's Fun! Walking can be very enjoyable.
- 2 It's Healthy! Walking improves children's health and fitness. Children who walk to school are generally more alert when they arrive than those who are driven.
- 3 It's Non-polluting! Walking reduces pollution which interferes with visibility during the winter months. Children inside a car can breathe in more pollution than they would walking along the same piece of road. Walking can also be quicker!
- 4 It's Friendly! Walking gives you time to talk to your children, other parents, storekeepers and neighbours.
- 5 It's Less Stressful! Walking avoids parking and traffic line ups. There is less conflict and frustration.
- 6 It's a chance to teach and learn new skills. Walking provides a chance for children to gain valuable road safety education. It promotes future independence.
- 7 It's Considerate! Walking reduces traffic near schools and is better for everyone's health and safety.
- 8 It's Educational! When you walk, you hear and see more. Education doesn't have to start inside the classroom.
- 9 It's Economical! Add up what you save in fuel costs each week.
- 10 It's Safer! Walking in numbers adds to everyone's safety. Walk with other parents to create a safer neighbourhood. It gives you a chance to teach your children valuable life skills.