

Did you know... children less than nine years of age should be accompanied

by a responsible adult or child over 9 years of age whenever they cross the street?

Children under the age of nine usually don't have the ability to make safe judgments about traffic because they aren't developmentally ready to make good choices on their own.



Why do children lack good judgment about traffic?

- Young children can't see out of the corner of their eyes as well as adults can.
- It is often difficult for children to determine the direction that sounds are coming from.
- Children lack the sense of vulnerability.
- Children have trouble judging how fast a vehicle is coming towards them or how far away it is.
- Children can be easily distracted and impulsive.
- Children think that if they can see the driver, the driver can see them.
- Children's small stature means that they may not see hazards and drivers may not see them.

Top Tips for Parents

- **Make sure drivers can see your child.** Use light-coloured clothes and backpacks with reflective material.
- **If your child is under age 9, make sure he crosses the street with an adult or older responsible child.** Walk with your child and teach him how to cross the street safely.
- **Have your 9-year-old show you that she knows how to cross the street safely.** Walk together before you allow her to cross the street on her own. Ask her to point out the risks and tell you what she would do.
- **Age nine is just a guide;** some children may not be ready until later.