

# The Safe Migration Project

## Starting Primary School

Make the physical journey to primary school as safe as possible for your child with these important tips.

### Try to use active forms of travel and plan the best route

Walking, riding or scootering to school is beneficial for you and your child. It is a healthy and environmentally friendly way to travel that can be enjoyable and social. To do so safely:

- consider what route you will take - **the safest way may not always be the quickest**
- choose streets that are low speed (i.e. have 40km/h speed limits or lower)
- plan to avoid busy or complex intersections
- choose the safest places to cross roads –use pedestrian crossings, pedestrian lights, pedestrian refuges and/or places where drivers can see you.



### Stay close to children when walking

Young children don't have the physical or perceptual skills to travel to school without active supervision. To be safe:

- stay close to children when walking or scootering to school
- actively supervise them and always hold their hand when near traffic and crossing roads
- role model "Stop, look, listen, think" when crossing the roads.

### Ride safely on scooters and bikes

Cycling is a great form of active travel to school for when your child is older (typically Years 3-4). If you choose to scooter to school:

- make sure you can supervise your child at all times
- wear a helmet – **it is legally required for children and adults riding scooters and bikes**
- helmets must meet Australian standards and fit correctly so they provide the proper protection
- ensure you have a bell and an effective brake on the scooter
- plan and choose the safest route using footpaths on low-speed roads, bike and shared-use paths where available.

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### The 5-Step Test

Only when you can say YES to all 5 steps can your child move to an adult seat belt for that particular car.



### Ensure your child is safe as a passenger

If you need to drive your child to school, it is important that:

- all children travel in the rear seats and use an appropriate child restraint or booster seat for their size
- children must continue travelling in a booster seat until they can pass the 5-step test (shown above). This typically occurs when most children are aged ten or older
- children get in and out of the car using the safety door – this is the rear passenger door, closest to the kerb, away from traffic.

### Slow down when driving

Young children can be easily distracted and unpredictable when using the roads. They can also be difficult for drivers to see due to their size. This makes children our most physically vulnerable road users.

- To protect them, slow down and show the utmost care when driving to, from or around school neighbourhoods.
- Driving under the sign-posted speed limit makes children and school environments safer.

### Choose where you park wisely

- It is a good idea to park away from the school and walk part of the way to reduce congestion and improve safety near school entrances.
- If you need to park near the school, use drop-off zones and always park legally.

### Additional resources

#### Child car seats:

[www.carseatssavelives.com.au](http://www.carseatssavelives.com.au)

#### Cycling with children & bike helmets:

[www.transport.vic.gov.au/road-rules-and-safety/bicycles/cycling-with-children](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/road-rules-and-safety/bicycles/cycling-with-children)

#### Road Safety Education Victoria:

[www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au](http://www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au)