



Get in the zone

DOs and DON'Ts of school zone safety

School zones can be dangerous places for kids walking, biking or even getting picked up or dropped off at school. In 2009, 42 traffic accidents involving kids under the age of 14 occurred on Manitoba streets. Together, we can make our roads safer by following these simple DO's and DON'Ts of school zone safety.

DOs

- 1 Slow down.** Slow to a safe speed where you can. Carefully watch for kids crossing in between parked cars.
- 2 Stop for buses.** When a bus' lights are flashing, it means that children are getting in or out. Traffic must stop in both directions until the lights stop flashing – and no sooner.
- 3 Put your car in park.** When dropping off your children, don't just come to a stop, but put your vehicle in park while they exit.
- 4 Pick a spot.** Discuss with your child a designated pick-up and drop-off spot that is easily and safely accessible. That way, kids aren't wandering the streets to find their ride home.
- 5 Always signal.** Signal when changing lanes, turning onto another street or when moving from a parked position.



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DON'TS

- 1 Don't be distracted.** Put down the coffee or cell phone and put your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.
- 2 Don't park in no parking or no stopping zones.** Waiting drivers may become impatient and attempt unsafe manoeuvres to pass, putting you and your child directly in harm's way.
- 3 Don't idle.** If you stop for longer than 10 seconds, it is more fuel efficient to shut your car off and turn it back on when it's time to go.
- 4 Don't roll through stop signs.** Make a complete stop at every stop sign and check for traffic both on the road and the sidewalk.
- 5 Don't ignore School Safety Patrols.** Patrols are there for one purpose: to protect youngsters as they cross the street. When crossing guards extend their flags and enter the street you must come to a complete stop and wait for all pedestrians to cross, proceeding only when the patrol has returned to the curb.

