

Keep kids safe in and around cars

CT088

Safety in and around cars is important to consider especially at this time of year when it's cold outside and you're rushing in and out of the car.

It is important to think about getting your child/children in and out of the car safely. Children can easily get hurt or hurt themselves if you leave them alone in a vehicle.



Important Driveway Messages

Roads and driveways are very dangerous places for children. Five children are killed on roads and driveways each year. Teach yourself and your child road safety tips to keep them safe. Always stay with your child when they're on the road, footpath or driveway. Here's some safety tips for driveways:

- Take extra care when you're in a vehicle on a driveway where children may be playing.
- Know where the children are before getting in the vehicle - call out.
- Drive forwards out of the driveway if you can. It's easier to see in front than behind.
- Check again for children before driving off. There's no going back.
- Always supervise children around vehicles.
- Know where children are when visitors are due to arrive, or leave your home.
- Build a fence between the driveway and your child's play area - particularly if you share the driveway with a neighbour.
- Separate play areas from driveways.



Top tips to keep your child safe in and around the car

- Take your child with you when you leave the vehicle, even if you're only going to be away for a few minutes. This is especially important in the warmer months when cars can get very hot very quickly!
- Remove the car cigarette lighter, and don't leave lighters, matches, medicines or keys in your vehicle.
- Use child safety locks on all doors if your vehicle has them.
- Teach your child to get in and out of a vehicle on the footpath side.
- Park safely away from yellow lines, intersections and driveways.
- If you have a small baby and a toddler, always remove the baby first from the vehicle. If you remove the toddler first then he or she is left unsupervised while you are removing the baby from the vehicle, there's a chance to run onto the road or car park area.
- Talk to the children and promote road safety when you can. There's some useful tools here: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/safety-for-children/road-safety-tips-to-teach-your-children-2/> and our PORSE resource sheet here: <http://manual.porse.co.nz/sites/manual/files/educators/docs/rs/RS084.pdf>

Child Restraints

Child restraints are an important way to keep children safe. It is important that you consider the best type of child restraint based on the child's age, weight and height and that it is fastened correctly to the vehicle. If you're not sure, Plunket and most companies that sell child restraints will be able to guide you and some also offer an installation service free of charge.

More information can be seen on our PORSE Educator website here: <http://manual.porse.co.nz/sites/manual/files/educators/docs/rs/RS068.pdf> or on the New Zealand Transport Agency website here: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/vehicle-safety/safety-belts-and-restraints/using-child-restraints-safely/>