

# Key Road Safety Messages for adults who care for young children

## When children are walking near roads, footpaths, driveways and car parks

- hold their hands until they are at least 8 years old
- ensure they hold onto a pram, stroller, bag, trolley or your clothing if you cannot hold their hand
- closely supervise them up to at least the age of 10 years.

## Before driving with children

Visit an authorised restraint fitter who will make sure each child's restraint is:

- certified to meet the Australian Standard
- correctly installed and checked
- correct for the child's age and size according to the law\*  
For children who are:
  - Younger than six months – rearward facing child restraints
  - Between six months and four years – either rear or forward facing child restraints
  - Between four and seven years – forward facing child restraints or booster seats.
  - From seven years – booster seats (fastened with a lap/sash seatbelt) or, if they no longer physically fit in a booster, adult seatbelts.

To be optimally protected in the event of a crash, children should stay in the specified restraint type for as long as physically possible.

- Only move children from a child restraint if
  - the top insertion slots for the shoulder straps are below the child's shoulder level,
  - their eye level is higher than the back of the restraint, or



- their shoulders are too broad to fit in the restraint.
- Only move children from a booster seat if
  - their eye level is higher than the back of the restraint, or
  - their shoulders are too broad to fit in the restraint.

## When driving with children

Make sure they-

- are always buckled up in their child restraint or booster seat and stay buckled up, awake or asleep, no matter how short the journey
- enter and exit the car through the 'Safety Door' – usually the rear kerbside door
- sit in the back seat. In a vehicle with two or more rows of seats, children under 4 years must not sit in the front seat. Children between 4 and 7 years can only sit in the front seat if all the back seats are taken up by children under 7 years of age.

## When children are at play

- make sure the area is safe and away from traffic and water
- actively supervise them while they are playing
- check they are wearing a correctly fitted helmet, protective clothing and shoes when riding wheeled toys and bikes.

**Never leave children alone in any vehicle.**

\* NSW Road Rules 2008