



Neighbour Week 2025



Safe neighbourhood play

- it's important to “look left-right-left” before crossing the street
 - this habit ensures we check for oncoming traffic from both directions before stepping out onto the road
- beware of **blind spots** — it is not safe to play in driveways, near parked cars or around blind spots where drivers may have difficulty seeing you
- use safety gear when riding bikes, skateboards or scooters in the street, including:
 - helmets, knee pads, elbow pads and reflective clothing
- learn to recognize the sound of vehicles and the importance of moving out of the way when they hear one approaching
- play in groups — more visible to drivers and there is strength in numbers when it comes to road safety
- work with neighbors to create a neighborhood watch system, where everyone looks out for the safety of the children playing outside
- children should try to be courteous to drivers — if a ball or toy rolls into the street, they should wait for the traffic to pass and find a safe opportunity to retrieve it
- no chasing — never chase after pets or other objects that enter the street, call for adult help instead



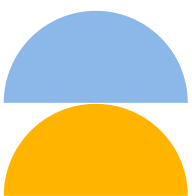
HALIFAX

PARKS &
RECREATION



Pedestrian safety:

- **walk on the inside edge** of the sidewalk so you are further away from traffic
- If there is no sidewalk, **walk facing traffic** so you can see oncoming vehicles
- cross only at intersections or marked crosswalks — **never jay walk**
- **dress to be seen** especially at night and on dark/overcast days
- make sure you can hear and see oncoming cars — **remove your headphones** and your hood when crossing the street
- **make eye contact with drivers** — keep your head up and look where you're walking — never assume that drivers see you
- always **look for signs that a vehicle is about to move** (e.g. rear lights, exhaust smoke, sound of motor, wheels turning, etc.)



HALIFAX

**PARKS &
RECREATION**



Five tips for parents to teach pedestrian safety to their children:

- **make it fun** – instead of lecturing to your kids, try to make it fun while still treating it as a serious issue
- **be a role model** – parents are the number one role model for any young child, so make sure you are setting a good example
- **focus on the basics** – kids will digest information about serious issues when it's simple for them to understand
- **mark out safe areas** – focus on teaching your kids where to position themselves when they are around roads to ensure they are in as safe a position as possible
- **park it** – parking lots or any areas where cars commonly park require special attention
 - remind your kids that vehicles can back up quickly or move without warning
- **supervision is key** – always supervise young children when they are playing in the street
 - adult supervision helps prevent accidents, ensures children follow safety rules and allows quick intervention if a dangerous situation arises

Driver safety

- vehicles should have their **lights on to increase visibility**, regardless of the time of day
- when approaching an intersection, **always scan right and left for pedestrians** before continuing through
- when operating a vehicle, **be cautious of pedestrians** who may be distracted or unaware of their surroundings (e.g. texting, on the phone, headphones in, umbrella, hood blocking their vision, etc.)
- **obey the speed limit** – not to avoid tickets but to avoid tragedy
- **slow down and drive with care**

Credit: Royal Canadian Mounted Police Service, Whitehorse, 2020

