

The Law and You

Where a school crossing guard displays a school crossing stop sign, the driver of any vehicle or street car approaching the school crossing guard shall stop before reaching the crossing and shall remain stopped until all persons, including the school crossing guard, have cleared the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle or street car is travelling and it is safe to proceed.

"PARENT SCOPE" reminds parents/caregivers to focus on the safe travel of children in and around school areas. If each driver watches for potential safety violations as well as being mindful of their own driving behaviour it will make the journey safer for all.

What the Signs Mean

- **No Parking:** The halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when engaged in the loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise.
- **No Standing:** The halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.
- **No Stopping:** The halting of a vehicle even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with directions of a constable or other police officer, or of a traffic control sign or signal.

What did you teach me today?

When you pick me up in the bus zone
In a hurry to be on your way
Or tell me to j-walk across the street
What did you teach me today?

When you stop your car in the middle of the street
So I'm on time for the school day
And disregard the school patrollers
What did you teach me today?

When you park in the handicap stall
To get "the spot of the day"
And disrespect the person who needs it
What did you teach me today?

I know that you truly care about me
And the other kids on their way
But when you break the traffic laws
What did you teach me today?

-Kathy Brower 1998, Edmonton, AB

For more information on this and other traffic safety related issues please contact:

www.torontopolice.on.ca

www.torsafe.com

www.mto.gov.on.ca



PARENT SCOPE



Are you part of the problem?

Young pedestrians aged 19 and under are about 5 times more likely to be killed or injured in motor vehicle collisions when running onto municipal roadways as compared to pedestrians aged 20 and older.

Drivers in School Zones can be hazardous to students!

Fines have now increased between \$150.00-\$500.00 for anyone that disobeys a school crossing guard, or enters the intersection before the crossing guard has cleared the roadway.



Cyclist Tips

- Many children ride their bicycles to and from school every day. A cyclist is required to obey all traffic safety signs and signals. The same rules of the road apply to cyclists and motorists.
- Children often ride their bicycles on the sidewalk, for safety reasons. If you ride on the sidewalk be careful of pedestrians.
- Walk your bike across the road.
- Cross the street at the corner.
- Never ride your bike in the dark or bad weather.
- Watch for motorists turning into or pulling out of driveways. Keep head up and eyes watching at all times.
- Wear a helmet while riding your bicycle. Not only is it a good safety rule, it is the law!
- Signal turns so that drivers can easily predict your movements.



Tips for Motorists

- Be patient! Pedestrians often require additional time to cross the road. Actively look for and yield to pedestrians and cyclists, especially when turning.
- Children can be unpredictable, pause to ensure you know their intentions.
- School crossing guards are allowed by law to use the stop sign to direct traffic. Failing to obey the sign could result in a minimum of \$150.00 fine and 3 demerit points.
- Take your time, a few seconds may mean the difference between safety and tragedy. If you are a parent/caregiver have a contingency plan in place for your children in case you are delayed in picking them up. Let them know what to do if you are not in sight right after school.
- Obey parking, stopping and standing prohibition signs in school zones. Drivers who park in these areas to cut down on the time it takes to get their children to school put everyone else at risk. Their vehicles often obscure the view of the roadway for other motorists. Children run out onto the roadway to get into and out of their parents vehicle. Park a block away and walk to get your children. Not only are you contributing to a safe school area but you are also teaching your children to respect and value others in our community.

Pedestrian Tips

- Know the rules of the road and the signs of safety. If you are not sure, ask your parent/caregiver or teacher to tell you what they mean.
- Be predictable and consistent. Cross only at traffic signals, crosswalks, and stop signs.
- Watch for drivers who are not paying attention.
- Make eye contact before you step off the curb.
- Cross at the beginning of a solid green light or walk signal to give yourself more time to cross.
- Wait for vehicles to stop before crossing. Never run out from between parked cars.

Signs of Safety

