

Getting children home safely

School dismissal is one of the most chaotic times of the school day for parents and their children. Vehicles line up prior to the final bell (sometimes more than 30 minutes early!) as drivers wait to collect their children. And in a matter of 10 minutes, hundreds of students have left the school property on their way home.

Throughout this process, parents are reminded to obey all the posted traffic signs as well as the staff and volunteers on duty to ensure the safety of all children. These signs are not meant to frustrate parents; they are intended to help parents and their children stay safe and accident-free.

Here are some helpful reminders:

DO

- encourage your child to walk to and from school;
- adhere to any pick-up procedures that the school may have established;
- set up a regular pick-up routine and review this with your child;
- obey crossing guards;
- arrive a few minutes after the dismissal bell to stagger the amount of traffic and relieve congestion around the school;
- use the Kiss & Ride lane on school property, if applicable;
- park legally—in a parking space on school property or on the school side of the street;
- park a block away from the school and walk the rest of the way;
- have patience and take an extra moment to be safe.



DON'T

- don't stop in the middle of the street to pick up your child;
- don't encourage your child to cross the street mid-block;
- don't park or stop in front of or on someone's private driveway;
- don't park or stop in the middle of a crosswalk;
- don't get out of your car if stopped in a fire route;
- don't yell or swear at school staff or volunteers;
- don't get frustrated by other drivers or other children.

THINK SAFETY FIRST
Taking your time means preventing accidents!
SLOW DOWN — BE PATIENT

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Complete the Safety Word Search.
Can you name the sign in the background?



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|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Bus | Dismissal | School Zone |
| Calm | Home | Slow |
| Careful | Parents | Traffic |
| Children | Partners | Vehicles |
| Congestion | Patience | Walk |
| Crossing Guard | Safety | Watch |

Answer: No U-Turn. This means do NOT turn your vehicle around in the street.

2nd Annual Winter Walking Day

It's winter! Don't hibernate—walk to school and celebrate! Walk to school or at school for daily physical activity, a healthier environment, safer streets, making friends and ... having fun!

Ontario's 2nd annual Winter Walk Day for Schools, presented by Green Communities Canada, takes place **Wednesday, February 10, 2010**. Register your school today! Visit: www.saferoutestoschool.ca/winterwalkday.asp

The Traffic Safety Times is a publication of the Traffic Safety Council (TSC), an advisory committee of the Council of the City of Mississauga. TSC considers matters related to the safety of students and makes recommendations to Council designed and intended to protect elementary and secondary students from the dangers of vehicular traffic and related hazards.