

# SCHOOL DROP OFF 101



## A caregiver's basic guide to City of Kitchener School Zones

Caregivers can lead busy, hectic lives. By the time for school drop-off, you've spent an hour or more wrangling your kids, you might be late for work, fatigued, and stressed out. Even still, it's important to take your time - mistakes happen when we're rushing or overwhelmed.

These are a few suggestions that will help make school drop-offs safe for everyone.

### LET RESPONSIBLE KIDS WALK

Many neighbourhoods are connected with safe routes to school, making it the safest option for many. If your kids are old enough to walk to school on their own, avoid the busy drop-off zone. Even if they can't walk all the way, park a few blocks away for a shorter walk to school.

### SLOW DOWN

Studies show that speeding during an average trip to a grocery store or school saves you less than a minute of time. That's not worth a severe collision or someone's life.

### LEAVE SPACE

Leaving a buffer of space between you and the next vehicle will give you more time to stop for the unexpected and better lines of vision to see small children.

### AVOID U-TURNS

It might be tempting to make a u-turn to save some time. Unfortunately, these u-turns can be unexpected, adding to traffic congestion and can be dangerous in busy environments

### OBEY THE LAW

School zones are clearly marked and most do not allow parking or stopping so that children can better see to cross the street and to leave room for school vehicles; those markings should be respected. Especially when running late, it might seem like a quick and easy solution. But one illegal park tends to encourage others to do the same, quickly expanding the scope of congestion beyond the drop-off area designed to handle it. School zones have a limit of 30km/h - don't risk a ticket.



The City of Kitchener is committed to eliminate serious injuries and deaths due to traffic collisions. Our Vision Zero strategy is a multi-year plan to make our roads safe for everyone.

Learn more at

[kitchener.ca/visionzero](http://kitchener.ca/visionzero)

Traffic collisions are **not** accidents.

# GETTING TO SCHOOL 101



## A student's basic guide to City of Kitchener Streets

We love that you walk and roll to school, and we're building better streets to make it easier and safer for you. But the street can't do it all, and drivers don't always see you. Here's what you can do to stay safer.

### WHEN WALKING:

- stay on the sidewalk
- face traffic; when there's no sidewalk
- stay on the right side of a multiuse path
- walk with a buddy
- look for white reversing lights on cars backing out of their driveways

### WHEN CROSSING THE ROAD:

- stop, look, listen, and think; make your own decisions about safety
- cross with a crossing guard, at a stop sign, or a traffic light when possible
- look for the driver; if you can't see them, they can't see you
- look left, right, left AND behind before crossing
- ensure vehicles are slowing or coming to a stop before entering the road
- cross calmly and at a steady pace, not suddenly

### WHEN CYCLING:

- map your route with your caregivers using the City of Kitchener bike map
- walk your bike through crosswalks and crossing guard locations
- wear a helmet
- slow down near pedestrians
- use your bell, horn, or voice to give friendly notice when passing pedestrians or drivers

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