

## It's cool to stay safe on the way to school and back

Awesome! School at last! Learning new things, making new friends. To make sure that you not only have fun but also stay safe, we give you a few tips for a safe way to school.



### Walking to school

- ▶ Don't rush and always allow for enough time. If you are in a hurry, you can easily overlook things.
- ▶ Practicing together is great. So, your parents should practice walking to school with you ahead of time.
- ▶ Show your hands: Indicate to the drivers that you want to cross the road.
- ▶ You're better visible together! Walking to school and back home is best done in groups. But be careful - don't get distracted!

in sight? Then slowly open the door and keep watching out.

### Travelling to school by public transport

- ▶ You should practice travelling by public transport with your parents beforehand. They'll show you everything you need to know.
- ▶ A good tip: Always hold on tight and sit down whenever possible.
- ▶ A bus is big - you never know what's behind it. So, always wait for the bus or tram to depart before crossing the road.

### Travelling to school by car

- ▶ A children's seat is like a throne in the car, it's simply terrific! But: Don't forget to fasten your seatbelt.
- ▶ By the way, getting in and out of the car is easy on the sidewalk side.
- ▶ Be careful while getting out of the car! Take a look first. No car



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Watch out!

**Safety**  
is no secret



## Safety to go: the DEKRA safety cap

Even though you are not yet that tall, you can still stand out!  
The best way to do so is wearing special clothes.

- ▶ The signal red DEKRA safety cap not only makes you look cool, but also makes you more visible from a distance. It's true! It has a reflective strip that shines like cat's eyes in the dark. Cool kids are not only bright on the inside, but also on the outside.
- ▶ And if you even wear a reflective strip or a kids' safety collar, you'll surely be seen by everyone!
- ▶ Wear mainly light-colored clothing, especially when it gets dark early, like in autumn and in winter. And anyway: It looks great, makes you more visible and, after all, you wouldn't want to look "gray as a mouse".



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In addition, you can practice how to correctly ride a bicycle on the road together with the police (yes, with real police officers!) and pass a small test. Then you'll have

a bicycle license! Now you can practice riding to school with your parents. You'll see: It's real fun!

## Looks can be deceiving – cars often don't see you!

Being a kid is great. But sometimes adults don't realize that you are not grown up yet and traffic situations can often go over your head. But this also takes practice.

- ▶ Because you are smaller, you just lack "an overview" – and are harder to see. When adults practice walking to school with you and squat down to your eye level every now and then, they will surely notice a few more things you should watch out for.
- ▶ Do you think it's strange that a car doesn't see you even though you can see the car? That's perfectly normal. You just need to learn that seeing and being seen are two different things. Until then, it's helpful when adults put themselves in your position and act accordingly.
- ▶ Don't rush, please: Crossing a road just takes a bit longer for your little feet.
- ▶ STOP! Even if the traffic light just turned red – running across a road is very dangerous.



From a child's perspective

## Important for your parents – for best teamwork

You as parents can contribute greatly to your children's road safety. Practice behavioral rules together and be a role model.

- ▶ Unlike adults, children have very limited peripheral vision – so they cannot see danger out of the corner of their eyes.
  - ▶ Children always have an egocentric perspective – they think: "I can see the car, so the car must be able to see me."
  - ▶ Because they are smaller, kids often lack an overview and are harder to see for other road users.
  - ▶ Practice walking to school together with your children. Discuss any potential dangers along the way.
- Important: Do it at a time when your children usually walk to school, not just on weekends and during the holidays.
- ▶ Swapped roles: Have your children walk you to school. Explain to them what they need to watch out for along the way.



From an adult's point of view