

In Australia, about one child each week, most often a toddler, is tragically run over in a driveway¹. Often, the driver is someone the child knows well, such as a parent, relative or friend².

In many cases, the vehicle is moving slowly. However, a reversing vehicle in a driveway can still trap a child and cause serious or fatal injuries¹. Children who survive are often left with severe long-term injuries.

Why the risk?

Young children are naturally inquisitive and want to see what is going on. They move surprisingly fast and can run into the street **without warning**.

In the time it takes for the driver to say goodbye and start the car, a child can move from a 'safe' position, onto the driveway and into the path of the vehicle.

Toddlers and young children can be almost impossible to see from inside a car, especially if they are standing directly behind it. While many drivers know their vehicle has blind spots, the size of these blind spots is often larger than people realise.

Even if your car has parking sensors or a video camera fitted, you may not notice a small child until it is too late to stop.

Safety Steps: Don't go if you don't know!

Supervise

- Always supervise your children when near cars and driveways.
- Hold your child's hand when near cars and driveways.
- If you are the only adult at home and need to move a vehicle, even only a small distance, place your child securely in the vehicle with you while you move it.

Separate

- Create safe play areas for your children away from traffic.
- Where possible, avoid using the driveway as a play area for children.
- Make access to the driveway from the house difficult for young children, by using security doors, fencing or gates

See

- Drivers should walk around their vehicle before moving it, even if your car has parking sensors or a reversing camera fitted.
- Wave goodbye from a safe place. Where possible, avoid using the driveway to wave goodbye.



1. Waddell, G, McKenna, J, Skarin, D. Kidsafe WA Childhood Injury Bulletin Research Report: Road Injuries. Perth (WA): Kidsafe WA (AU); 2017 June.

2. CARRS-Q, State of the road: Driveway runovers fact sheet, 2011

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For more information

www.kidsafewa.com.au
kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au
(08) 6244 4880