



Parent-School-**Child**
Early Childhood Road Safety Agreement





In Australia every year, families are devastated by death and injury of children and/or parents on the roads. Evidence shows that children learn their ultimate driving behaviour from a very early age. Ideally, teaching children safe driving and road behaviour will decrease the risk of a disaster when young, and also pay dividends again when the child eventually reaches the learn to drive age.

The Roads 2 Survival™ Program was developed by young people, parents and other concerned community members to help families discuss and manage issues involving young drivers and road crashes. The cornerstones of the program are discussion, family, trust, responsibility and choice. The Roads to Survival™ Program provides a framework to help you to discuss and hopefully to improve your own and your families' safety on the roads.

**The Roads 2 Survival™
Early Childhood Road Safety Agreement**

is designed to provide a broad road safety framework for schools and parents to build on. The child is also involved at a simple level as a way of introducing the concept of learning as it relates to road safety.

It is suggested that the parent and the school discuss the agreement with the child, in a three way meeting. The child should be encouraged to be involved and to formally write their name on the agreement. After all, it is primarily about their safety. The child's sections are written in **a different font**.

The agreement covers a number of issues and you are free to omit or modify items as you see fit. This concept is about individuals taking responsibility for, and control of, their own destiny. You may even end up just talking about this and then not signing the agreement. Even then, at least you will have considered and discussed the issues.

It is your choice.



Every year in Australia many children die at or near schools as a result of car crashes. This usually occurs when they are pedestrians and are struck by other vehicles.

Early Childhood Road Safety Agreement

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Schools and Parents, please remember you have a responsibility.

Schools, please remember that you have a responsibility for the safety of children in and around schools. You should insist on safe drop off and pick up procedures by your students' parents. You also have a responsibility to teach students about road safety from an early age.

Parents/guardians, you also have a responsibility to ensure safety for children in and around schools. Please remember children are often hit by cars during drop off and pick up times. It is essential that you ensure safe drop off and pick up behaviour for your child and others. Please also remember that your son/daughter is watching your driving. They will start to develop their own driving behaviour based on what they see you do. This learning is already underway by 5 or 6 years of age. Please consider the example you would like your son/ daughter to follow.

Children, you are now at school and you will need to be very careful around cars and roads. You need to learn and follow road safety rules. You should ask your parents and teachers what to do if you are not sure. Watch what they do, and learn to be safe.

I/we acknowledge that the right to drive involves responsibilities.

I/we also acknowledge that as parent(s) or guardian(s), I/we fulfil a role model for driving behaviour and will therefore drive in a responsible manner.

In particular, I will not indulge in illegal or dangerous behaviour during school drop off and/or pick ups.

Parent's Name.....

Parent's Name.....

School

We acknowledge that we have a right to insist on safe behaviour during school drop off and pickups. We also acknowledge that we have a responsibility to instil road safety knowledge and practice into the children we care for.

Teacher's Name.....

Child

I know that cars and roads can be very dangerous. I will watch what my parents and teachers do, as an example to me. I will be careful and follow the road safety rules that I am taught. I promise to remind mum and dad about road safety if they forget something.

My Name



Tick or initial the items that you agree on.

Safety is our top priority.

Overall Safety

Parent/Guardian's Promise to provide a safe road environment for my/our child:

My/our son/daughter's safety is of overriding importance to me/us. I/we will aim to provide a safe environment for him/her as far as road safety is concerned. I/we promise to work with the school to teach and practice road safety to my son/daughter.

- Parent

School's Promise to provide a safe road environment for our student:

Our students' safety is of overriding importance to us. We promise to provide a safe environment as far as road safety is concerned. We promise to work with parents to teach and practice road safety to our young charges.

- School

Education is a continual process and involves observation of real life behaviour as well as formal teaching.

Teaching/Learning

We agree to teach (child's name)..... safe behaviour in cars and on the roads.

We will do this by providing an example with our own behaviour as well as by formal teaching.

- Parent
 School

I agree to learn road safety by listening to and watching my parents and teachers.

- Child

In Australia over 25% of crashes causing injury are rear end collisions. We agree to drive defensively to protect our family.

Defensive Driving

My child needs me, and I need my child. I will try my best to keep myself and him/her alive.

I agree to allow for a safe margin of space between vehicles, adjusting for road conditions.

In particular, I agree not to "tailgate".

I acknowledge that there are more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists especially young/small ones. I will look out for them. I will be especially vigilant around schools and suburban back streets.

- Parent

We will teach the concepts of defensive behaviour around cars and roads to our students.

- School

Every year children die from being unrestrained or inadequately restrained in vehicle crashes.

Safety Devices

I agree that all children/infants will use appropriately sized and correctly fitted child seats/infant capsules at all times.

I agree to never hold a child on my lap whilst in a moving car.

I agree that all vehicle occupants will wear seatbelts correctly at all times.

- Parent

I will always wear my seat belt and always sit in the right seat for me.

- Child



In Australia, hospitalized road crash victims have over 20 times the frequency of alcohol and illicit drug use when compared with other road users.

Drugs/Alcohol

I will not drive if I have been drinking or using drugs which may affect my ability to drive safely.

I will only be a passenger in a vehicle where the driver is sober and drug free.

I will only allow my child to be a passenger in a vehicle where the driver is sober and drug free.

Parent

We will teach our students about the effects of drugs and alcohol on performance.

School

Distractions are a common cause of crashes. We agree to keep our minds on the road, and our hands on the wheel.

Distractions

I agree to pull over to use a mobile phone to talk, or to send or receive text/video messages.

Parent

I agree to keep interior volume to a level that allows outside sounds, in particular sirens, to be heard.

Parent

I agree not to fight or yell or pester mum and dad (or anyone else) while they are driving. This is because they need to concentrate on their driving for us all to be safe.

Child

Australia has long driving distances and fatigue is a recurrent factor in crashes. Families lives are destroyed every year as a result of drivers falling asleep.

Fatigue/Mood/Physical-Health/Environment

I understand that being tired, upset, angry, late, sick or injured can affect our driving capability. I will not allow these things to put our child's life at risk.

I will be aware of weather/road conditions that may affect our driving and will adjust our driving or pull over, as necessary.

I agree to plan and take breaks during long trips as a part of fatigue management.

I agree to stop driving immediately and rest, regardless of trip length, if we should start to doze while driving.

Parent

We will teach

I agree to remind mum and dad to stop and rest if they seem to be getting tired when driving.

Child

In Australia, each year a number of children die or are maimed when their parents back their cars over them in their driveways

Reversing

We will never reverse a car in a driveway in a house with children without being certain where the children are.

Parent

I will always look out for any moving car in the driveway.

Child



Each year sadly many children die when hit by cars while crossing roads

Crossing Roads

I will set a good example to my child when crossing roads with them and obey the rules below.

- Parent

We will ensure school staff set a good example when crossing roads outside the school or when with any school children. We will reinforce the rules below.

- School

I will cross roads only when it is safe to do so.

I will always look both ways before crossing the road.

I will only cross roads at safe places like crossings and corners.

I will always use a pedestrian crossing if one is available.

I will always cross with the green light.

I will never run onto a road, or run across a road, even if chasing something.

I will be especially careful when crossing roads with my friends.

I will look out for cars coming out of driveways when I am on the footpath.

- Child

Train versus pedestrian crashes are almost invariably fatal for the pedestrian

Crossing Train Lines

I will ensure my child is educated regarding the safe way to cross train lines.

- Parent

We will ensure our students are educated about crossing train lines

- School

I will only cross train lines at marked places and when it is safe to do so. I will always get off my bike to cross a train line.

- Child.

Every year many children are hit by cars on roads just outside their schools.

School Drop offs/Pick ups

I will follow the agreed school policy when dropping off or picking up my child.

- Parent

We will ensure we have a sensible and safe policy regarding drop offs and pick ups which is promulgated and discussed with parents.

We will monitor the ongoing drop off and pick up behaviour

- School

I will be very careful of cars when I am being dropped off or picked up at school. I will remind mum and dad about the safe way to park for this if they forget.

- Child



In Australia each year, many children suffer severe head injuries in fall from bikes etc while not wearing helmets.

Bicycles/skateboards etc and Safety Equipment

I/we will ensure my/our child has the correct safety equipment, of the correct size, for his/her bike, skateboard etc. I will also ensure he/she knows how to wear it correctly.

I/we will encourage him/her to use off road places to ride such as cycle paths, skate parks etc to minimise the risk of collision with cars.

- Parent

We will ensure we teach bicycle safety to our students.

- School

I will always wear the right safety gear including a correctly fitting helmet when riding a bike or using a skateboard or other wheeled equipment.

If I am riding on the footpath I will always watch out for pedestrians.

If I am riding on the road or footpath I will always watch carefully for cars coming out of driveways.

If I am riding on the road I will watch out for people opening doors of parked cars in front of me.

If I am riding on the road with one or more friends, we will not ride two or more abreast.

- Child

Every year a number of children are injured and killed when hit by cars in Australian car parks.

Car Parks

We will be especially vigilant when we are with our children in car parks.

- Parent

We will include safety in car parks as part of our road safety teaching.

- School

I will not run in car parks.

I will check for cars in all directions before crossing or walking on a car park road.

- Child

In Australia, after alcohol, speed is the next most common factor in fatal crashes. Whole families die every year in speed related crashes.

Speed limits and other road rules

I will not exceed marked speed limits. I will obey all road and traffic laws. I will be especially conscious of my speed and will be extra vigilant around schools.

- Parent

We will ensure that rules of the road are covered in our road safety curriculum.

- School

I will watch mum and dad's driving and ask them about the things they do if I am not sure. This will help me to learn more about road safety and will be very useful when I learn to drive.

- Child



Agreement

We agree to accept the terms of the agreement as indicated by the statements and checked/initialed boxes.

Signature of School Representative.....Date.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

Signature of Child.....Date.....

Review

We agree to review the contents of this agreement during at least the first four years of schooling. (at least annually is recommended.)

Date of First Review.....

This Australian pilot program has been based on a number of previous similar initiatives from Australia and around the world. It has been developed in Australia to address Australian issues. It is not currently affiliated with any other program. It is being trialed in Australia at Prince Alfred College (PAC). Please contact Dr Bill Griggs (wgriggs@bigpond.net.au) or Mr Kevin Tutt (ktutt@pac.edu.au) from the PAC Boys Education Reference Group (BERG) or see the website below for more information if required.

<http://www.roads2survival.com.au>
roads2survival@bigpond.com.au

Roads 2 Survival is a registered business name in South Australia.
BN04335168 © Copyright 2004 Dr William M Griggs.

Legal Disclaimer: While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the information provided in this document is accurate, it is provided at no cost, is intended as an educational aid and should not be taken as definitive, exhaustive or as a sole or effective means of addressing the issues relating to young drivers or prevention of road crashes. The creators/writers/sponsors of this program will not accept any liability resulting from reliance on any information contained in this document. Use of the Roads 2 Survival™ website, documents and concepts contained therein is entirely at the users risk in all respects.