

SUPERVISE, SEPARATE & SEE

The Facts:

- Most driveway run overs occur in the driveway of the child's own home, or in a friend or relative's driveway. The driver is usually a parent, relative or family friend.
- In 85% of cases, the driver does not know that a child is close to the vehicle; they think they are being looked after elsewhere.
- Incidents usually involve children under the age of 5, most often, children around 2 years of age.
- All cars have a blind spot – some up to more than 15 metres- which can make it difficult to see a child.
- Any vehicle can be involved in a driveway runover; the most common are 4WDs, utes, trucks and vans.
- Most driveway run overs occur in the morning (between 8am-10am) and late afternoon (between 4pm and 6pm).

Prevention:

Driveway run overs of children are becoming increasingly common. These incidents have a devastating effect on families, particularly when the driver is a family member or friend.

Children are unpredictable. They are naturally inquisitive, as well as being surprisingly quick and mobile. Their small size, together with the large blind spots behind most cars, means that children standing or stepping behind the vehicle often cannot be seen from the driver's seat. Even if the vehicle is fitted with parking sensors or a reversing camera, children may not be noticed until it is too late to stop.

Often, a young child follows an adult outside to say goodbye or to see what they are doing, then moves behind the vehicle and isn't seen until it is too late.

The information in this fact sheet provides a number of key tips to assist you to prevent driveway run overs.



Safety Tips

SUPERVISE

- Never leave young children alone to play, especially near parked or moving vehicles.
- If there is only one adult at home and there is a need to move the vehicle, even for a small distance, ensure young children are placed securely in the vehicle while the vehicle is being moved.
- Any children not in the vehicle should be kept well away and actively supervised by an adult who is holding their hands, to ensure a clear passage for the vehicle to move.

SEPARATE

- Treat the driveway like a road. Do not let children use the driveway as a play area.
- Separate children's playspaces from garages and driveways. Some design features that can prevent children accessing the driveway include fitting high handles to garage doors, fences separating the house and garden from the driveway, and self closing doors and gates.
- On farms, in addition to providing a barrier between the farmhouse and the driveway, a second inaccessible driveway can be built for farm vehicles.

SEE

- All vehicles have blind spots. Reversing sensors and cameras can assist with reducing blind spots, however, even when these are used, it may still be difficult to notice a small child until it is too late. It is important not to become complacent when these devices are used. There is no adequate replacement for the active supervision of children by an adult.
- Drivers should get into the habit of walking around their vehicle before getting into it when leaving an area where a young child is present.
- When choosing a car, check its rear visibility rating on the NRMA Reversing Visibility Table (www.nrma.com.au/keeping-safe-secure/car-safety/driver-visibility/reversing-visibility-tables.shtml).

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