

Kiss & Ride: the safe way

While walking remains the best option for students to get to school, some parents will, for a variety of reasons, choose to drive their children in their vehicle. In such cases, the safest way to drop off children is to use the Kiss & Ride program on school property.

Kiss & Ride operates each weekday morning at more than 100 schools across Mississauga. It allows for the delivery of the child to the school door or playground under the supervision of school staff and/or parent volunteers. The vehicle enters the school driveway stopping at the designated drop area. The child exits the car safely on the sidewalk side and the parent, without ever exiting the vehicle, then leaves school property confident that their child has safely reached his/her destination. At most school sites, school bus delivery occurs simultaneously, using a separate designated bus lane. The use of on-site pavement markings and signage assists in guiding parents into the appropriate "Kiss & Ride" lane.



If you would like to volunteer with the Kiss & Ride at your school, please contact your principal directly. Outstanding volun-

KISS & RIDE REMINDERS:

- Parents - never get out of your vehicle while using the Kiss & Ride.
- Students - always exit the vehicle on the curb side, away from traffic.

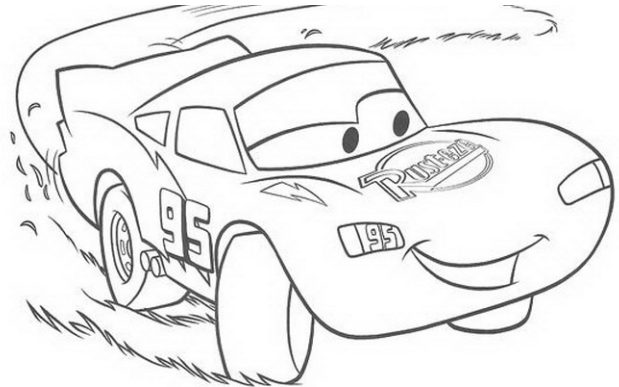
teers and staff who help monitor the Kiss & Ride Program on a regular basis at Mississauga schools are eligible to receive the WildeWood Volunteer Award at a City Council meeting.

To initiate a Kiss & Ride program at your school, contact Mississauga Traffic Safety Council. E-mail: traffic.safety@mississauga.ca.

Mississauga Traffic Safety Council provides each school that is starting up the program with a safety kit including a cone, stop sign, safety vests and an information package with a Kiss & Ride video. Members of TSC also offer ongoing assistance as needed once the program has been implemented.

THINK SAFETY FIRST

It may take extra time to act safely; but it's always worth it!



A child's view of traffic

We often think that our children are equipped to handle traffic situations when they have learned and can repeat safety rules. However, consider this:

- Children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 have difficulty imagining that there is a need to assess traffic because in their minds the world is their playground.
- Children perceive wider streets as dangerous and narrower streets as safe.
- Children perceive that bigger cars travel faster than smaller cars.
- Telling children traffic rules does not lead to safer behaviour, but walking and negotiating traffic with them may improve their traffic skills when they are older.
- There are 26 judgment skills needed to cross a street safely. Until children are about 8 years of age it is difficult for them to assess if a car or bus is even moving.
- Because of their lower eye levels, a child's field of vision is easily obstructed by parked cars, utility poles, newspaper stands, real estate signs, etc.

—From: *Canadian Institute of Child Health* – www.cich.ca

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The Traffic Safety Times is a publication of the Traffic Safety Council (TSC), an advisory committee of the Council of the City of Mississauga. TSC considers matters related to the safety of students and makes recommendations to Council designed and intended to protect elementary and secondary students from the dangers of vehicular traffic and related hazards.

www.mississauga.ca/trafficsafetycouncil