



Safety tips for using public transport

Teenagers are often more frequent users of public transport so it's important that they know how to use the system and the responsibilities that this brings. It is also a time when young people can be at increased risk – running across roads to catch the bus or tracks to get to their train, or crossing the road behind a bus without checking for traffic.

Everyone who uses public transport has rights and responsibilities.

Discuss these with your child.

- Always stand well away from the kerb or platform when waiting to avoid the risk of falling into the path of an oncoming bus or train.
- Stand back and wait for other passengers to get off the bus or train before you enter.
- Wait until the bus has moved at least 20 metres down the road and then cross the road.
- Stand clear of all doorways.
- Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
- Keep your belongings out of the aisle and on your lap.
- Always use the pedestrian maze, overpasses or underpasses to cross the railway tracks. If you have to cross over railway tracks – 'stop, look, listen and think' before you walk and keep on checking as you cross.
- Keep clear of the electric wires above a train track. Contact, even with objects or water, may result in death.
- Be aware that trains are deceptively fast and quiet and they take a long time to stop.
- Wait until the lights and bells stop and the boom gates (if fitted) go up.
- Wait until you can see the tracks are clear in both directions before you cross.
- Bikes, skateboards or scooters should be walked or carried across tracks and mazes.

Sometimes young people can be encouraged by their friends to behave unsafely on and around public transport. Check that your child feels confident enough to tell their friends 'no' when it is a situation where they, or other public transport users, might get injured.



The risks with public transport use can vary depending on where you live.

In country areas, young people getting off buses may need to cross roads where the speed of traffic is generally faster, road trains and semi-trailers are more frequent, and train crossings are often more exposed.

In city areas, young people often have to deal with heavier traffic and there are more passengers getting on and off buses and trains.

Plan A and B

Your children should know what to do when their plans to get home fail. If your children miss their bus or train, or they feel threatened or concerned about being on their own, what should they do? Talk with your children and make sure they know their Plan A and Plan B for these times.

SmartRider



SmartRider cards are usually organised through your children's school. If not, you can order and pay for a card at <http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/SmartRider/Types-of-SmartRider/Student-SmartRider> (Transperth). For more information and tips visit the parent section at www.getonboard.transperth.wa.gov.au



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