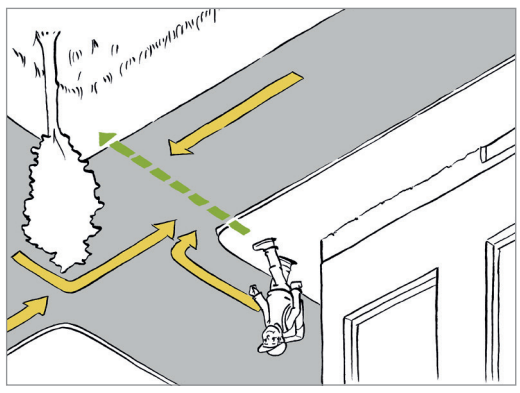
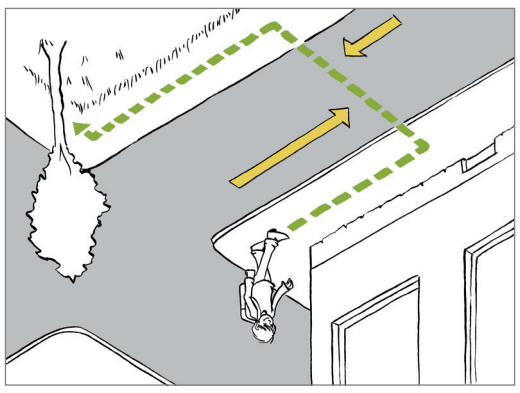
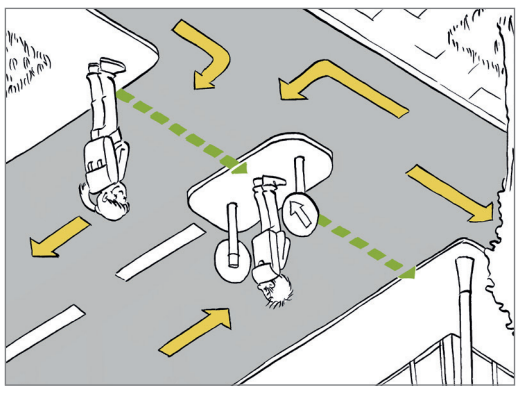
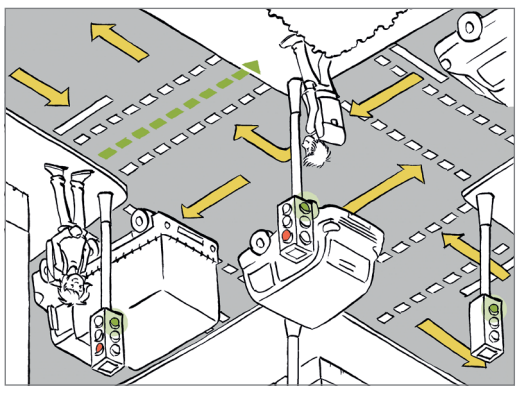




Pedestrians should cross side streets at crossroads or junctions.



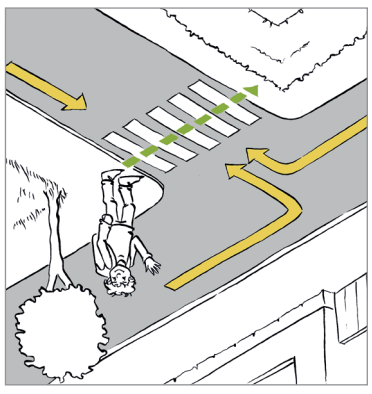


Illustrations © Mele Brink

When crossing at a pedestrian refuge island, your child will only ever need to look in one direction for on-coming traffic.

In the left-hand image above, the child will need to look in three or four different directions for on-coming traffic when crossing. The image on the right, however, shows that by modifying their course, they only need to watch out for cars approaching from the left and right. This makes it easier for them to judge when it is safe to cross.

Finding a suitable place to cross the road depends on the situation. For example, your child should avoid crossing at or near entrances or driveways. Good visibility is essential, so they should not cross the road on bends or where there are any other obstacles blocking their visibility.
Modifying their course may not necessarily be the safest option! It all depends on the location and situation. So please practise walking/cycling to school with your child!
Coloured dots are used on the map on the reverse to indicate where your child can modify their course to cross the road more safely.



Pedestrians have right of way at zebra crossings. Vehicles must stop. But don't just assume that they will!

What to teach your child:

- To first check if there are any vehicles coming. That if no vehicles are coming, they should cross the road quickly, without stopping.
- That if they see a car approaching, they should signal to the driver that they want to cross the road and wait until the vehicle stops. They should not step out into the road until the vehicle has stopped.
- **Important:** Zebra crossings are for pedestrians only. Cyclists must dismount and push their bike.

It is vital that your child also watches for on-coming traffic in the second lane. They should not feel under any pressure to cross and simply run across. The following may occur while your child is crossing the first lane: A car may come from the right. Or another car may overtake the car that has stopped at the zebra crossing.

Caution! Signs on the pedestrian refuge island may hide your child from view. They should therefore stand both where they can see the road well and where they can be clearly seen by drivers. It is also vital that your child pays attention to the traffic at pedestrian lights. Although the traffic must stop for pedestrians to cross the road, there is always the danger of drivers running a red light or of „amber gamblers".

Crossing at junctions with traffic lights

Usually, the lights will be on green for pedestrians at the same time as for the parallel-flowing traffic.
Although pedestrians have right of way, it is important your child is aware that vehicles may be approaching to turn in at the same time. There is also the danger of drivers running a red light.

What to teach your child:
To not simply step out into the road when the lights change to green for pedestrians, but to always look left and right first.

That sometimes the traffic lights might not be working properly. That they should not cross the road when the traffic lights are not working unless accompanied by an adult. That is better they take a detour to the next traffic light crossing, even if it makes them late for school.

Please also practise an alternative route when teaching your child how to get to and from school.
Available to download and print at www.aachen.de/schule
Also available in German, French, Arabic, Russian and Turkish.

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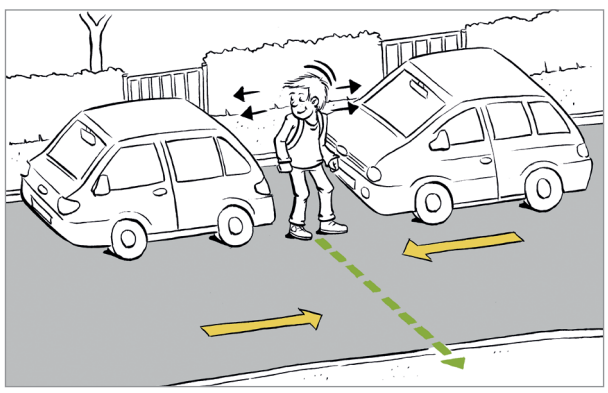
Learning and practising the route to school

To help you teach your child how to walk or cycle to school safely, the City of Aachen has produced a school route map. You can use this map to practise walking/cycling the route to and from school with your child before their first day at school.
Please try to avoid taking your child to school by car – exercise is good for their health, makes them more alert at school and boosts their self-confidence.

If your child cycles to school, check that their bicycle is roadworthy and ensure your child wears a helmet. Up to the age of eight, children must ride on the pavement,
and are allowed to do so up to the age of ten.

Crossing the road

Where is a good place to cross?



To cross the road safely,
you should cross at traffic lights, zebra crossings and pedestrian refuge islands.

When crossing the road, your child should look twice in each direction.
If no cars are coming, they should cross the road quickly, taking the shortest route.

What to teach your child:

- To check that there are no drivers sitting in the vehicles between which they wish to step out, and if there are, to look for another gap.
- Next, to step between the cars and proceed carefully to the edge of the vehicles, so that they can see the road clearly in both directions.
- To check that no one is sitting in the vehicles on the other side of the road, or, even better, that there is nothing parked opposite.
- Then to quickly cross the road.

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School route map Aachen

For the safest way to and from school for your child

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