LITTLE BLUE DINOSAUR

The Tom McLaughlin Memorial Road Safety Foundation



'School Holiday' Road Safety.

When children are out of their usual routine, it is easy for them to forget that road rules still apply.

On top of this, children in unfamiliar environments are confronted with different looking roads.

Roads in holiday destinations, whether coastal or rural, are often complex for children to navigate, as they can look different to those in their home environment.

These differences can include:

- No curb or guttering
- No line-markings
- No footpaths
- No identifiable safe crossing points, and
- The road can sometimes be dirt rather than sealed tar.

These changes in the roadway environment can be confusing to children and increase the risk of an accident occurring.

When you combine differing roadways with excited children in holiday mode, unpredictable behaviour can occur. Therefore, we must focus on our road safety during the school holidays as much as we do during the school term.

Around roads in holiday destinations, the importance of *holding hands* with children under 10 is incredibly important. This simple act could be life saving.

The Little Blue Dinosaur Foundation is urging parents to keep a vigilant eye on their children during the school holidays. Be conscious of differing roadways and engage in daily road safety talks with your little ones, whether on holidays or at home. Children have physical and mental limitations around roads and cars, so we must be regularly talk about how to keep safe.

The Little Blue Dinosaur wishes you a very safe and special holiday season.

For more road safety information, please visit <u>www.littlebluedinosaur.org</u> <u>facebook.com/littlebluedinosaur</u>

'Holding Hands' around roadways and driveways.

When near the road or driveway, children under 10 should always have their hand held.

While crossing the road may seem like a simple task, there are a lot of different factors at play which children may not fully understand. As a child, using the roadway can be a difficult and dangerous task, despite how confident they may appear. Roads are complex and busy places that change from minute to minute.

Restraining your child by holding their hand can prevent serious injury and even the tragic loss of life.

The Little Blue Dinosaur encourages parents to talk about road safety with their children every day. On the weekend or when travelling to and from school are great times to have this type of conversation.

Holding their hand when using the road or in a driveway until 10 is incredibly important, and could be lifesaving. For more road safety information, please visit www.littlebluedinosaur.org and facebook.com/littlebluedinosaur