# Plan your route to school activity

Families who plan, prepare, and practice walking and wheeling to school will help support children of all ages and abilities to learn safe and smart street-skills while gaining confidence, independence, and daily physical activity. On top of this, children will learn how easy, fun and sustainable using active travel for any trip can be when you plan, prepare and practice.

This activity aims to encourage families to seek out pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure on their trip to school, to create direct, accessible, and safe routes for walking and wheeling to school.

1. On a sheet of paper, record each family member’s morning & afternoon commute. Be sure to consider any additional stops along the way to their final destination. Example:

Most mornings, \_\_Mom\_\_\_ travels \_\_alone to work\_\_ by: \_\_\_\_bike\_\_\_\_\_ (family member name) (alone/with others to destination:) (mode of transportation)

Most afternoons, \_\_Mom\_\_\_ travels \_\_alone from work\_\_ by: \_\_\_bike\_\_\_\_\_

Most days, \_Mom\_ would prefer to travel with Sam to school, then work by: bike

*­*

2. Set family goals! Be sure to consider the age, ability, and independence of each child.

1. “Our child will be dropped off 5 minutes away from school so they can walk part way”
2. “We will practice biking as a family to school on weekends, so our child can bike alone”
3. “I will start a walking school bus so other kids don’t have to walk alone”

I would like to accomplish:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (write your personal goal here) (date)

‘Kiss and Go’ or ‘Park and Stroll’ at any of the Drive to 5 locations available at your school to avoid long lines and idling in the drop off loop line up.

# Travel Tip: Skip the Line!

**3. Consider and make note of potential barriers in each family member’s goal.**

Examples: balancing other family member’s schedules, childcare/supervision, traffic, distance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Barriers** | **Strategies for success** |
| **Timing** – we can’t bike to school together in the morning, because I will arrive late.  **Weather** – dark outside during the morning | 1. Use school’s early supervision to allow our family to drop Sam off early, and then bike to work. 2. Purchase bike lights, reflective accessories and clothing 3. Adjust my route to include lighted streets as needed. |

**4. Use Google Maps to determine the most direct route to school for your family. Explore different routes and travel time estimates for your preferred travel mode.**

**Route option 1**: Use regional trail network. My trip will be 8km and take approximately 30 minutes by bike (including drop off time)

**Route option 2**: Use neighbourhood cut-through and travel on road bike lanes. My trip will be 10km and take approximately 40 minute by bike (including drop off time)

5. Plan your family’s route! Use the attached map to compare suggested Google routes to your school’s local infrastructure. With your child, identify safe crossings, caution points, and landmarks to help prepare them to walk and wheel to school.

What walk and wheel infrastructure can you use on the way? (Check all that apply)

Sidewalk

Marked Crosswalk

Signalized Crosswalk

Pedestrian Overpass

Crossing Guard

Bike Lane

Walking School Bus

Drive to 5 Parking Area

Pedestrian/Cyclist Trail

To travel my route, I will use:



It will take about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ minutes to travel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(time in minutes) (distance; m or km)

**Plan, Prepare, Practice!**