

# Bike safety 101

So your child has been learning all about road safety and how to ride a bike safely. They might be eager to get out on two wheels and have a ride with you, however, as a parent or guardian, you might have a few questions.



## Are our bikes legal?

There are a few things every bike needs to be considered legal, and most importantly, safe for use.

- A working bell fixed to your bike.
- Working back brakes (front brakes are optional);
- A red reflector fitted to the rear;
- A yellow side reflector (visible from both sides) on each wheel; and
- Yellow reflectors fitted to both side edges of each pedal.

Most new bikes would have these but if you've got some older bikes in the shed or garage it's probably a good idea to give them a check before heading out on them.

If you plan to ride in low light conditions (dawn, dusk or even bad weather), a bike must have:

- A front light showing an unbroken or flashing white beam that is clearly visible from 200m, and;
- A rear light showing an unbroken or flashing red beam that is clearly visible from 200 metres.

## What rules do we need to follow?

You need to wear an approved helmet, fastened always. All approved helmets are sold with a compliance sticker, so they're easy to identify.

For young or new bike riders a footpath or shared path is the best place to ride. However, there are some special rules for the use of shared paths and footpaths in WA:

- All riders, regardless of age, may ride on any footpath unless there's a 'no bicycles' sign;
- Riders must keep left on shared paths and footpaths unless overtaking;
- Riders must give way to pedestrians always (this includes people walking, in wheelchairs, rollerblades and skates); and
- You need to travel in single file on all paths (can be two abreast on the road);
- Although path-users have right-of-way across driveways, be careful of cars as they won't always look or stop for path-users.

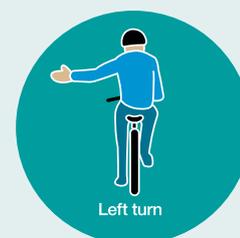
## Riding on the road

Remember, if you ride on a public road you must obey the same rules as cars and you should use bike lanes wherever possible.

When crossing at a children's crossing, a pedestrian crossing or a marked foot crossing you must get off your bike and walk it across the road.

If you choose to ride on the road, remember to use your hand signals to indicate where you're going.

### Hand signals



**Remember: Bike riders should always give way to pedestrians – including people walking, in wheelchairs, rollerblades and skates.**

## Bike Components:



## Bike safety checklist

For peace of mind, check your child's bike regularly, just like you do your car. This is a great opportunity to get them involved in safety and maintenance.

Ensure that the following parts are all in good working order:

- **Brakes** – Does each brake stop the wheel going around?
- **Tyres** – Are they worn or damaged? Are they fully inflated?
- **Wheels** – Are they buckled or are there spokes missing?
- **Gears** – Can you change gears smoothly?
- **Chain** – Is it clean, oiled and not loose?
- **Bell** – Is the bell working properly?
- **Reflectors** – Red at the back, white at the front and yellow reflectors fitted to each wheel and both sides of the pedals
- **Lights** – Both front and rear if riding in low light
- **General** – Check the pedals are tight and there are no loose nuts or defective parts

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## Tips for riding with your child:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Start small – try short trips that are enjoyable for everyone.
- Be mindful of driveways – it's important to remind the kids to keep an eye out for reversing cars. Remind them to Stop, Look, Listen and Think before crossing any road
- Have fun!

## Preparing your child for riding by themselves

The Road Safety Commission and Kidsafe recommend children under 10 years of age are closely supervised by a responsible adult when riding. When your kids are ready to ride unsupervised:

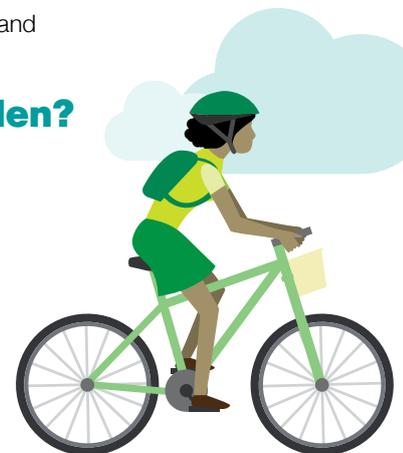
- Make sure they wear a helmet;
- Check their bike is in good working order; and
- Plan the route and practice it together.

## What if their bike gets stolen?

We recommend that you register your family's bikes for free with Bikelinc. This will help police find your bike in the event that it is stolen.

You can reduce the risk of theft by securing your bike at home and using a D-lock when out and about.

Register your bikes at [bikelinc.com.au](http://bikelinc.com.au)



Department of Transport



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