Riding bikes on the footpath

For children 12 and under

Children aged 12 and under can ride bikes on the footpath.
Parents and caregivers may ride with them to support their safety.

Footpath safety

Children should be confident and able to ride in a straight line, steer around objects, and be able to stop with control before riding on the footpath.

Support your child and help them learn how to:

- ride at a safe speed
- scan for driveways and other hazards
- pass people with patience and care
- ride near the middle of the footpath to keep safe but move to the left when other people are approaching.

Share with care

Teach your child to:

- slow down, especially in busy areas or near shops or bus stops
- give way to pedestrians - they may need to stop and pull over if there's not room to pass
- ring a bell or politely call out when approaching people from behind
- always pass people slowly and where there's the most space.

Managing hazards

Teach your child to:

- look for vehicles moving in and out of driveways – if there is a vehicle, teach them to stop and check the driver has seen them
- look for vehicles before crossing side roads – teach them to stop and put their foot down or get off and walk
- scan ahead for hazards on the path such as bumps, steps, rubbish bins and overhanging trees
- be aware of rubbish and recycling trucks – teach them to hang back and wait if the truck is emptying wheelie bins.

Other things you can do

- Practice bike control skills in an off-road area.
- Ride with them until they've built skills and knowledge.
- Make sure they're always wearing a helmet.
- Check their bike is in good order with working brakes.
- Have them wear light or bright coloured clothes so they can be seen more easily.

26-EX-074

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa