After the summer holidays hundreds of thousands of children will be starting out on their first way to school. This means a lot of new impressions they have to deal with. To make it easier for them and their parents the Public Order Department has published special school route maps for the catchment areas of all primary schools.

These show the safest way to the respective schools. The children have to get to know this route and practice going there – first, of course with their parents. And please don’t forget the way home: after experiencing an exciting day in school the little ones are often less concentrated and not always careful.

School should be fun for children and learning through playing is the easiest way to learn. It is easier for a child to learn if praise and recognition are given for behaving correctly.

PREPARATION

- Plan in advance and be sure to get the information or videos on road safety education you need in good time. Or talk to the teachers or other parents on this subject.
- To ensure your child can be clearly seen when it is dark or weather conditions are poor he or she should wear light-coloured clothes and have reflectors on his or her schoolbag. Additional reflectors on outdoor clothes also increase the safety factor.
- Please remember that in road safety matters you and how you behave are a role model for your child. If you see other adults or children behaving wrongly, explain what is wrong and point out the dangers that are involved.
- Please make sure your child leaves for school in good time. If they are afraid of coming too late to lessons they will be nervous and careless, putting themselves at danger.

PRACTISING WITH YOUR CHILD

- Practise going the way to school with your child. Go a few times with him or her – it’s best to do this at the normal school times. Check later if your child keeps to this route and uses the pedestrian crossings you’ve recommended.
- Explain any possible hazard points and discuss the correct behaviour here.
- Crossing a road is always a major hazard for children. Therefore, practise stopping and waiting at the roadside where they have a good view in all directions and they can cross the road quickly and safely. If possible, only cross the road where they have an unobstructed view in both directions.
- Whenever possible, pedestrian and zebra crossings should be used; at zebra crossings the child should make eye contact with the car-drivers approaching.

INFORMATION ON ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

Many institutions and organisations publish information material on road safety education, for instance
- Class teachers at your school – they often have media on this subject.
- Road safety education - Stuttgart Police Department
  e-mail: stuttgart.verkehrserziehung@polizei.bwl.de
  Further information at www.gib-acht-im-verkehr.de
- Deutsche Verkehrswacht e.V.
  www.deutsche-verkehrswacht.de
  The Traffic Watch Assoc. (Die Verkehrswacht Stuttgart e.V.) provides the school beginners with caps.
- ADAC
  www.adac.de/wuerttemberg