

## FACTS: THE PHYSICS OF SPEED

- A car driven at 20mph or lower can stop in 12 metres or less (about three car lengths), giving the driver a good chance to brake and stop in time if a child runs out ahead of them.
- If the car was being driven at 30mph, and a child ran out 12 metres in front, it would still be travelling at about 27mph when it hit the child. The child is likely to suffer death or serious injury from the impact, which is equivalent to the impact speed reached by a child falling backwards off a third floor balcony (a drop of about 7.3m).
- At any speed of 40mph or higher the distance will entirely be taken up with thinking time and you will be unable to slow down at all. So if you drive at 40mph and a child steps out three car lengths in front of you, you will hit that child at 40mph.

