Idea 3

CHILDREN ROUTES

Marking children’s daily routes with colours and playful elements can help improve their mobility while increasing the playability of the public space. These routes typically connect residential areas with schools, playgrounds and parks.

This also alerts drivers to the presence of children in the area, and increases levels of perceived safety for parents, thus reducing their stress levels. It allows for earlier independent mobility and ensures a visible focus on children mobility.

Implementing a children route may lead to a public space being assessed for friendliness to families, by identifying dangerous areas, for example.

At a glance...

COST
$  $$  $$$

MAINTENANCE

GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT
- Social Services
- Education
- Health
- Parks
- Planning
- Transport

MINIMUM SCALE
Neighbourhood

EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL
In experimentation

Photo: Courtesy of Fundación Casa de la Infancia
OUTCOME AREAS

- Reduced caregiver stress and isolation
- Increased instances of caregivers who walk or bike with young children
- Reduced traffic-related deaths and injuries

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- The Kindlint or ‘child-route’ in Eindhoven, Netherlands, is meant to provide a safe, walkable route for children in the neighbourhood. It is marked by signage, and a distinctive coloured and textured path for children to follow. It connects residential areas to schools, parks and playgrounds. It is meant to reduce the age at which independent mobility is attained, and to increase perceived safety for parents.

- The city of Boulder, Colorado, has applied the concept to cycling mobility for children and families, ensuring that all spaces frequented regularly by children are connected by protected bike lanes.

- In Mexico City, Liga Peatonal uses data on road accidents to inform road safety recommendations around schools. They have engaged in tactical urbanism interventions such as signage and playful painting activities at road crossings to create safer routes for children to reach schools.

RELATED IDEAS

- Urban stories
- Design for play
- Targeted air quality improvements
- Safe, interesting and playful transit
- Pedestrian improvements
- Traffic calming
- Protected bike lanes
- Chief child development officer

LEARN MORE

- Play Everywhere Playbook by KaBOOM