Increasing pavement width, walkability and ‘strollability’ – walking while pushing a pushchair – increases opportunities for interaction and play, and reduces the likelihood of collisions and injuries.

It provides more time to catch a toddler who runs off towards the street and allows for a more comfortable walk during which caregivers and kids are less stressed and more likely to use the time for positive interactions. Ensuring that pavements remain free from obstructions (cars, stalls), and comfortable (shade, benches) is crucial, and requires maintenance and enforcement of regulations in addition to design interventions. Interventions can easily be tested temporarily first.

Finally, by ensuring a walkable connection between the places where young children and caregivers go frequently (health clinic, childcare, park or playground), cities encourage physical activity, reduce stress and increase quality of life.

At a glance...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COST</th>
<th>MAINTENANCE</th>
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GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

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

MINIMUM SCALE

Neighbourhood

EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL

tested and implemented

Photo: Courtesy of @petemilnes
OUTCOME AREAS
- Reduced cost and average time to reach healthcare, childcare, pre-school, green space and a source of healthy food
- Reduced caregiver stress and isolation
- Increased instances of caregivers who walk or bike with young children
- Reduced traffic-related deaths and injuries
- Improved access to early childhood services

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES
- In Copenhagen, Denmark, woonerfs (or shared streets where pedestrians have legal priority over motorists) increase safety, but also teach young children about navigating public space. Different textures and materials for the floor encourage children towards certain spaces or deter them.
- In Eindhoven, Netherlands, and San Francisco, California, USA dedicated children’s routes linking schools, parks and playgrounds in residential neighbourhoods are made visible via colourful signs and paint.
- In the City of London, UK, the Bankside Boardwalk installation is a wooden, levelled, and temporary (six months) extension of the pavement onto the street in response to a need for more pedestrian space. Adaptable, colourful and potentially playful, the intervention includes benches, increases space for pedestrians in a pushchair-friendly way (no change of level) and contributes to lower traffic speed by reducing car space.

RELATED IDEAS
1. Temporary play streets
2. Safer street crossings
3. Children routes
4. Safe, interesting and playful transit
5. Traffic calming
6. Protected bike lanes
7. Data dashboards

LEARN MORE
- Global Street Design Guide by the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
- Pedestrians First, tools for a walkable city by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
- Play Everywhere Playbook by KaBOOM