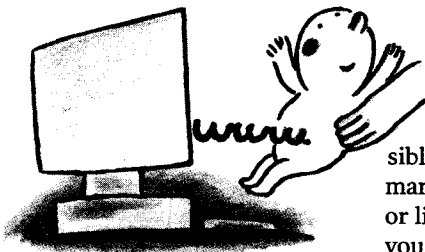


## RDRELATIONSHIPS



### Can Anyone Adopt?

**I**F YOU'RE determined to adopt and you're willing to accept an older child or one who comes with siblings, it doesn't matter whether you're married, single, rich, not so rich, a city dweller or living in the boonies. Start surfing and you'll find hundreds of people willing to help.

[www.adoption.ca](http://www.adoption.ca) is the Adoption Council of Canada web site, your one-stop adoption shop. Or call toll free at 1-888-542-3678.

[www.familyhelper.net](http://www.familyhelper.net) is the web site of Robin Hilborn, a one-person adoption resource centre and publisher of Adoption Helper and Post-adoption Helper.

PETER CARTER in Chatelaine

### Driving Blind

**A**MOTHER backs out of the driveway—and over her toddler, killing him. It sounds like a freak accident reported on the local news, but there were at least 58 child back-over fatalities in the U.S. last year documented by the nonprofit safety group Kids 'N Cars, up from 22 in 2000.

The rising numbers may be due to busy lifestyles, limited play areas—and bigger vehicles, which have larger blind spots, says Kids 'N Cars Executive Director Janette Fennell.

While 51 percent of new vehicle purchases

are pickups, vans, mini-vans and SUVs, these models account for about 60 percent of documented child back-over deaths.

But the problem isn't limited to SUVs, says David Champion, director of the *Consumer Reports* Auto Testing Facility. "Know the limits of your vehicle, and give yourself five seconds to look before backing up," he says. **DEREK BURNETT**

The distance from the rear bumper at which a 71 cm orange traffic cone becomes visible to the driver:

Honda Accord	3.66 m
Toyota Camry	3.45 m

Honda Odyssey	3.96 m
Dodge Caravan	3.96 m

Toyota Sequoia	4.27 m
Ford Expedition	3.96 m

SOURCES: Readers Digest, Ford, Camry and Consumer Reports

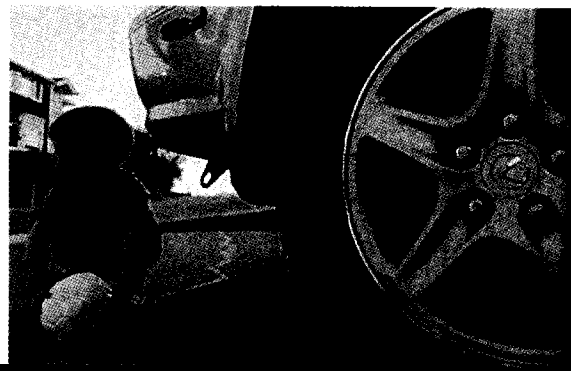


ILLUSTRATION: YAYO

COURTESY: KIDS 'N CARS