

Abstract

Mobility characteristics of primary school children have changed dramatically over the last decades, with children having less active and independent mobility nowadays. This decline contributes negatively to the development of children's mobility characteristics. Fewer ways being travelled actively and independently lead to less possibilities for children to learn important knowledge about traffic in everyday mobility. The age of primary school is a specifically important time for the development of the perception of dangers and spatial cognition in public space. At this certain age, decisions in mobility are usually made by the children's parents. The following thesis examines the question of how strongly traffic and personal safety – as perceived and assessed by the parents – influences the mobility of primary school children.

For an examination of this issue, personal interviews with parents of primary school children are made in two primary schools in Vienna. The content of the questioning is based on predefined research topics. With this method, motivations and influencing factors should be explained, which could lead to parents decision-making patterns concerning transport mode choices and accompaniment of the children. The perceived traffic safety plays an important part in deriving measures for more active and independent children's mobility.

The results show that traffic safety, as perceived from the parents, can only be applied as an influencing factor on transport mode choice and accompaniment on specific children's ways. The extent of active and independent mobility of primary school children depends on a number of other factors, for instance parents' mobility characteristics, household composition and existing settlement pattern. Further, parents can be classified in how they approach mobility decisions for their children.