

I might run off and get hit by a car



Road safety

Aims and objectives

Recognise that young children are unaware of danger on the road. Understand the importance of starting to teach concepts like 'fast' and 'slow', 'near' and 'far'.

Activity/Session

Group discussion about experiences and challenges on and near roads and ways to start teaching children about dangers.

Outcomes

Learners able to:
Understand a young child's perspective of traffic, speed and dangers. Start to teach safety concepts to children and consider risk reduction and prevention ideas.

Session notes

Surprising facts

- Children can't assess speed or distance until they are at least eight years old. They aren't able to cope with traffic safely until then.
- They might be able to repeat simple instructions, like holding hands near the road, but will not understand the danger.
- They have a very short attention span, so can be easily distracted and forget rules, especially when excited or upset.

Why are young children at risk near roads?

- They don't understand the danger of the road and moving cars.
- It can be hard to keep hold of an excited child who wants to run.
- They might be able to repeat simple instructions but won't necessarily remember.
- If they see a friend across the road they may just run out.
- Their small size means drivers may not see them until it's too late.

How can you stop accidents near roads?

- Teach your child to hold your hand or use walking reins.
- Keep your child on the inside of the pavement when walking, and wear bright clothes to be seen.
- Teach your child simple rules of the road but don't expect them to remember.
- Start to teach simple ideas like 'fast' and 'slow', 'near' and 'far' when you're out. Count how long it takes for a car to go past while you're waiting to cross. Ask questions about which things you see are faster or slower, like a bicycle or car.
- Children will copy what you do. Avoid stepping into the road without checking for traffic. Choose safe places to cross and tell children why.

What else can you do on roads?

- Remember to put your child in and out of the car on the pavement side where possible.
- Make sure your child is strapped in and sitting in the right car seat for their weight and height.