

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Road safety: Create a street scene

Learning aims

- To understand what stop, look and listen means
- To know that you should only cross roads when holding an adult's hand and should never cross a road on your own
- To understand how to keep yourself safe and be safe
- To become familiar with your local community
- To understand the distractions that technology can have on children's safety.



Resources

- 'Ted's Tumble' story - [see it here](#)
- Role play resources to create a street scene e.g. tape or chalk to mark out pavement kerbs, toy vehicles such as bubble cars, trikes or cardboard boxes for children to create their own vehicles, record various traffic sounds and sounds children may hear in the street (such as emergency sirens), scissors, cloth to cut for straps, paper, card, bubble wrap and images of a pelican crossing (ideally one local to your setting).

Activity outline

1. Read the story (this may need to be amended slightly to meet the different ages and needs of the children) and talk about the key messages
2. Use circle time to talk to children about how they cross a road and what they do to stay safe when crossing a road with a family member. Look at pictures of pelican crossings and talk about how they work (stop at the kerbside, press the button, watch for the green man etc.)
3. Re-enact a role play scenario indoors or outdoors to model safely crossing the road
4. Depending on the space you have available, choose a spot where you can add a road. Use large pieces of paper fixed together to map out a road in an outdoor space or mark a road out a road using tape or chalk
5. Use large recycled boxes to create cars for children to step into, attaching cloth straps so it sits comfortably on the child's shoulders. You should now have several cars to test on your road

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6. Paint a red man figure and a green man figure onto paper or card and cut them out into a circular shape and attach them using straps. Create a sandwich board effect so they can be worn by a child, to create a 'stop' or 'go' action for the pedestrians waiting to cross the road
7. Paint a set of traffic lights to indicate when the 'cars' on the road are to stop or go
8. Create a pelican crossing and paint bubble wrap yellow to create the detectable warning pavers at the edge of the kerb
9. Incorporate the language 'stop' and 'go' and encourage the children to practice this by standing up and moving on the word 'go' and stopping when they hear the word 'stop'
10. Let the children decide on their roles (taking turns) for being a 'car' on the road, the 'pelican crossing', a 'traffic light' or a 'pedestrian' crossing the road
11. Practice safely crossing the road, looking left and right
12. Leave the props out so the children can continue to use them in their own time
13. Use open-ended questions to encourage children to think about key messages when crossing a road safely e.g. what might happen if you don't stop and listen?
14. Record some road sounds, or find them online, including cars, fire engines, motorbikes, bicycle bells, the beeping of a pedestrian crossing and ask children to guess what they can hear
15. Encourage children to play out a scene being adult or child, holding hands to cross the road.

Extension ideas

- Plan a [Child Safety Action week event](#) for parents to raise awareness of issues that can impact a child's safety and well-being e.g. adults using mobile phones when crossing the road
- Invite local services to come into the nursery to talk to children and parents about safety e.g. the lollipop person, fire brigade.

Special considerations

Unfortunately, some children may have experienced a family member or friend being involved in a serious traffic incident. Be aware of any special sensitivity which may need to be shown when discussing this subject. Pre-warn parents/carers if you are carrying out road safety activities so children can be supported appropriately.