

Where can you sometimes hear a vehicle before you can see it?

A bend in the road or brow of a hill

7. Advice for crossing the road

Children need to be able to devise a system to help them cross the road safely. Find and discuss the safest place to cross. Stop, Look, Listen and Think. If traffic is coming, let it pass. Look all around again. When there is no traffic coming, walk straight across, looking and listening all the time.

Why is it important to walk straight across and to keep looking and listening?

It is the shortest and quickest route and you need to keep checking that it is safe to continue to cross the road

Why shouldn't you run?

You may fall over and will not be able to keep looking and listening or thinking properly



8. Crossing between parked vehicles

Only where there is no alternative to crossing between parked vehicles should the following procedure be used.

Check that there are no drivers in the vehicles and that they are not going to move off. Make sure the space is not big enough for a vehicle to pull into. Stand between the cars, close to the outside edge using the car for protection.

Carefully look around the cars to check the road is clear. Remember that drivers of passing cars might not see you. (Children should know that they must never play between or around parked vehicles.)

How can you be sure the cars are not going to move?

If there is no driver, lights (red/white/amber), exhaust fumes, engine, noise etc.

What do the different lights mean?

White – reversing lights

Red – stop lights

Amber – flashing hazard warning lights

Amber – indicator lights

Practice crossing the road with your child. Remember that once any vehicles have passed and you start to cross you will gain a better view of the road and will be able to judge whether it is safe to continue.

Remember to always Stop, Look, Listen and THINK - Is it safe to cross?

For further information please contact:

Highways and Transportation
Essex County Council,
County Hall,
Chelmsford,
Essex CM1 1QH

Telephone: 0845 603 7631

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**All about
Pedestrian Training
Stage Two - For Year 3 pupils**

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Essex County Council

The programme, in partnership with parents, aims to develop a child's awareness of roads and traffic. Training takes place using roads near the school.

This leaflet aims to:

- Build on previous road safety knowledge
- Develop judgement of speed and distance
- Prepare children for later independence as a road user by encouraging decision making.

We hope it will:

- Reinforce the training given at Pedestrian Training sessions
- Provide a summary of the training session for those who were unable to attend.

Work through the sections bit by bit – don't try to get through it all at once.

Parents, carers and families play an important role in teaching and reinforcing road safety messages to their children

Help your child by:

- Encouraging them to do the thinking and by involving them in the decision making
- Asking them lots of questions and encouraging them to question you
- Making sure everyone gives the same message
- Being consistent – even when you're in a hurry. Never let your child see you do something you would not want them to copy.

Here are a few suggestions of things to discuss with your child when you are out and about.

Key

Purple type – Parents' information

Bold type – Suggested activities and questions to ask children

Italic type – Suggested answers

1. People who help us

Children need to identify people who they can trust and who can help them cross the road safely, such as School Crossing Patrols or the Police.



Can you think of anyone else who can help you?

Aunts, uncles, the parents of friends

2. Pavements

Children should recognise that there are sometimes hazards for pedestrians on the pavements.

If there are no pavements, you should walk facing the oncoming traffic. It may be safer to cross the road before a bend to give drivers a better chance of seeing you.

Can you point out any driveways, entrances and obstacles that block your view?

Discuss the dangers of swinging around lamp-posts, bollards etc.

3. Choose a safer place to cross

You should always choose the safest place to cross with your child. There may be some special facilities to help you cross, such as a bridge, subway, zebra crossing or crossing patrol. If not, you should find a place with good visibility. Children need to understand the dangers of crossing between parked cars and the need to look for a safe alternative wherever possible.



If possible, go and look at a local crossing place such as a zebra/pelican/island and discuss how they should be used, how people cross and what the traffic does.

Traffic does not automatically give way. You need to check that traffic in both directions has stopped before crossing and look for any vehicles that may be overtaking the queue of stationary traffic.

4. Stop

Children need to understand that they must Stop at the kerb to give them time to Look, Listen and Think properly before crossing the road.

Where on the pavement should we stop and wait?

A little way back from the kerb

Why shouldn't we stand too near the kerb/edge of the pavement?

We may be knocked by the wing mirrors of large vehicles or lose our balance

5. Look

Children should understand the need to look all round for traffic and be able to judge its speed and distance. They should be aware that vehicles do not always go in the direction that they are indicating.

At junctions, look to see the direction that traffic is coming from and going to.

Look for traffic and notice how things look smaller the further away they are.

6. Listen

Children need to listen for traffic at the same time as looking, as they cannot remember what they have seen in one direction when they turn their head to look the other way. Headphones and mobile phones prevent you from hearing traffic and even hoods and hats can muffle the sounds.

With your eyes closed, practice identifying the type, size, speed and direction of vehicles.

