

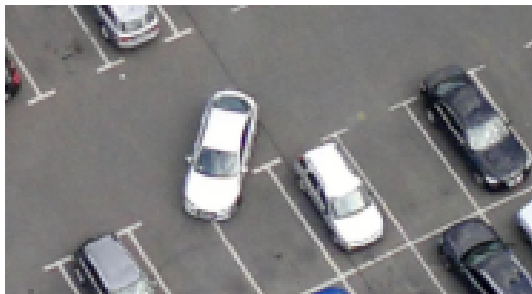


## Road Safety

Children are never too young to start learning about how to cross the road safely, how they should walk on the pavement and how to behave safely near the road and around traffic. They are more likely to learn when out on the road, rather than in a classroom or through talking about road safety at home.



Road and car park danger!  
Keeping your child safe.





Young children should always be accompanied by and hold hands with an adult they know around roads, particularly when they are crossing the road.

Children at a young age cannot accurately judge the speed of traffic and safe gaps in traffic in the way that adults can and should not be left unsupervised to cross even quiet roads alone.

It is a good idea to take your child out near a quiet road to begin to practice crossing the road safely.

### **The Stop, Look, Listen and Think sequence**

Children aged 5-6 can begin to learn the Stop, Look, Listen and Think sequence.

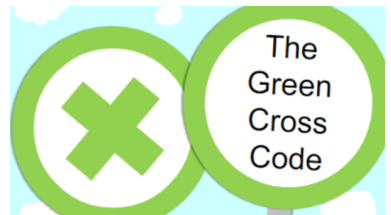
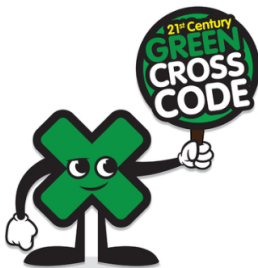
Stop: when you approach a crossing,

STOP before you come to the edge of the pavement

Look: LOOK for cars, bikes, lorries and other vehicles by looking right, left and right again

Listen: LISTEN for vehicles too. You may be able to hear them before you see them

Think: is there enough time for you to cross the road safely?



## Key messages to teach 2-4 year olds

- The difference between footpath and the road □
- How to walk with a grown-up who they know and hold hands near the road □
- Introduce Stop, Look, Listen and Think □
- Introduce safer crossing places □
- Be bright be see

## Key messages to teach 5-7 year olds

- How pedestrians walk safely on the pavement and vehicles use the road □
- How to walk with an adult who they know and hold hands when walking near the road □
- Safer crossing places and how to use them □
- The Stop, Look, Listen and THINK sequence. □
- How pedestrians walk on the pavement and vehicles travel on the road □
- Places where it is not safe to cross the road

## Key messages to teach 7-11 year olds

- The Green Cross Code and how to put it into practice, recognising safe crossing places on the road □
- Road signs and pedestrian crossings □
- The Highway Code and the rules of the road



It is vital to teach children about the dangers of driveways, both at home, and when out walking.

You can start to talk about road signs and crossings.

When you are walking with your child, you can talk about and point out different signs and crossing.



Be safe, be seen

It is also important to teach children of all ages about the need to be visible on the roads, and this is particularly important as the evenings get darker at the end of autumn and throughout winter.

### How do I know my child is ready to travel independently?

Children are ready to go outside and navigate roads alone only when they are aware of the key pedestrian road safety rules, understand them fully and can put them into practice.

Your child must also be able to demonstrate that they can accurately judge traffic and interpret how far away it is and how fast it could be moving, so that they know how long they have to cross the road safely. Initially, always walk with your child to make sure that they are aware of and can put into practice the Green Cross Code.

