



Footsteps

Parents Guide



Parents in the UK are very protective of children in their company on the roads and usually make all the necessary decisions about crossing roads without involving children in the process, or alternatively provide no guidance or protection at all.

Another problem borne out by research is that most children now travel by car rather than on foot and have little exposure to traffic until later in their primary education and certainly in their secondary education.

- Child casualties account for approximately 7.5% of all casualties in Buckinghamshire
- In 2007, 55 children aged 0 – 11 were killed on Britain's roads. Another 1,546 were seriously injured
- 68% of children aged 0 – 11 killed or seriously injured in 2007 were on foot at the time

Adults are essential in Footsteps as tutors and observers. It is hoped that this will develop into a new culture, with adults regarding on-road training as a normal, ongoing activity. For this to happen adults, children and parents will need to learn 'Footsteps' simultaneously.

'Footsteps' is a three stage programme that can be run at your child's school with the help of parents and teachers.

The points listed overleaf are a good way of teaching your child to become a safer and more thoughtful road user.

Developed by the
School Travel Planning Team
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Stage One

1. **Safe Places:** Where it is safe to walk and stand near roads. Naming parts of the road (for example 'a kerb')
2. **Stop:** Where to stop before crossing and why
3. **Look:** Learning to see traffic and knowing where vehicles may come from
4. **Listen:** Finding out about the different noises made by traffic. Hearing vehicles before you can see them
5. **Fast/Slow:** Starting to understand how fast, or slow, traffic is going
6. **Near/Far:** Learning how far away vehicles are when they are first seen or heard
7. **Crossing:** Preparation for crossing – practising crossing holding hands. Learning to walk straight across.

Stage 2

8. **Safe places:** Looking at parked cars and junctions and deciding where to cross. Also, talking about zebra crossings, pelican crossings and traffic islands
9. **People who help:** Police, Traffic Wardens and School Crossing Patrols
10. **Stop:** Stopping before crossing without being reminded (looking and listening for traffic)
11. **Listen:** Hearing traffic and knowing whether it is coming or going away
12. **Vehicle Lights:** What are the lights for and what do they mean?
13. **Crossing:** Looking all around while crossing holding the hands of an adult

Stage Three

14. **Green Cross Code:** Putting the code into practice
15. **Parked Cars:** Learning about parked cars. Deciding if it is safe to cross between them
16. **Conspicuity/Weather Conditions:** Seeing vehicles and being seen by drivers during day and at night. Thinking about slippery roads.
17. **Crossing:** Showing that he/she knows how to use pedestrian crossings under the supervision of an adult
18. **Plan a Safe Route:** Planning a journey on foot using the best route.