Children copy your driving habits

Pupils’ Pack

Transport for Buckinghamshire
Children copy driving habits

Children love to copy what their parents do and say, especially when in the car. Copycat learning is one of the main ways they establish behaviour and setting bad examples in road safety has serious consequences. Naturally, a child is at risk as a passenger in a car being driven inappropriately. But, by watching this behaviour, the child could also be at risk when they become a driver.

An 18 year-old driver is more than three times as likely to be involved in a crash than a 48 year-old driver
What is CopyCat?

CopyCat is an initiative developed by Buckinghamshire County Council in association with Thames Valley Police. It aims to help parents think more carefully about their driving habits and take more care when setting an example to their child.

This leaflet provides information about the enclosed road safety DVD, useful tips on driving behaviour and how your child can join our fantastic CopyCat Club for free! A fun window sticker is also enclosed.

We have created an educational DVD for children aged 4 to 6 years old (KS1 and KS2) to watch in class with their teacher. It demonstrates inappropriate driving behaviour to help them understand what’s wrong. Teachers can pause the DVD at key places to ask the children questions and discuss the rights and wrongs.

Inside is a copy of the DVD, without the pause points, for you to watch at home with your son or daughter. We’ve also included a worksheet with simple questions relating to the film for your child to return to school.

Over 3,000 car drivers under 25 are killed or seriously injured on Britain’s roads each year.
Bad driving behaviour:

**Don’t drive while using a mobile phone**

All phone calls distract from driving. Using a mobile phone while driving means you’re four times more likely to crash.

It’s illegal to use a mobile phone while driving, even when stopped at traffic lights or in a traffic jam. Texting is also not allowed. You could be fined up to £60 and gain three penalty points on your licence. Your insurance costs could also go up.

**Don’t drive while eating or drinking**

Drivers who eat and drink at the wheel are twice as likely to have a crash.

The law requires drivers to be in control of their vehicle at all times. This means that the police can still act if they see a driver eating a sandwich, shaving, applying make up or drinking from a bottle while driving.
Bad driving behaviour:

**Don’t drive irresponsibly**

You’re twice as likely to die in a crash if you don’t wear a seat belt. The law says that all children up to 135cm tall (around 4’ 5””) or the age of 12 must travel in the correct child restraint for their weight when in the front or rear seats in cars, vans and other goods vehicles.

Driving too fast is bad driving. Breaking the speed limit, or driving too fast for the conditions on the road, contributes to more than 727 deaths and 4,555 injuries every year. Car drivers and passengers are also three times more likely to die on a rural road than a busy street due to speeding.

**54% of parents admit to participating in poor road safety behaviour in front of their children**
Other road safety tips:

• Don’t use your mobile or MP3 player when crossing the road. Teach your children to concentrate on the roads and they are much less likely to be injured as a result of being distracted.

• Never cross when the red man is showing. Although the roads may appear to be clear you need to teach your children to always wait for the green man.

• When cycling with your child, don’t disobey road traffic signs.

Your children will follow your lead, so make sure you keep yourself and your children safe.

One third of all fatal and serious injuries in Buckinghamshire are young drivers aged 17-24