

Phase 1 – Recognising safe versus dangerous roadside locations



Session 1 – Go for a little walk. Discuss the pavement being used for people to walk on whilst the road is used for vehicles. Find a safe place to cross (somewhere that you can see clearly in both directions, away from parked cars and junctions) and show them the kerb and where to stand behind the kerb when they're getting ready to cross the road. Look right, left and right again and cross over looking both ways and listening as you go.

Session 2 – Repeat everything in session 1. After you have gone through the motions of crossing in a safe place, move down the road and show them an example of a bad place to cross the road (i.e on a corner, brow of a hill, by a parked car, by other pedestrians – anything that obstructs their view). Explain why it's unsafe and move away to find somewhere safe to cross.

Session 3 – Run through everything in first 2 sessions. Find a safe place and discuss whether we should cross the road in a straight line or a diagonal line. Most children will cross the road diagonally – this is not safe as it means they are on the road for a longer amount of time than if they crossed in a straight line.

Pick a landmark out on the other side of the road (not opposite you) such as a lamppost or post box and ask them if it's better to walk up the road in a diagonal line to get to it or is it better to cross in a straight line and then use the pavement. Cross the road twice – once in a straight line and once in a diagonal line - Count the steps each way – the safest way is the one which adds up to less steps ... the straight way!

Session 4 – Run through the first 3 sessions making sure they understand that the safest way to cross the road is in a straight line. If they don't then you will need to repeat session 3 again. Make sure they understand safe versus unsafe places to cross – a safe place is somewhere that they can see both ways.