

During the next half term your child will be taking part in the road safety training scheme -
Kerbcraft Skill 3 - Crossing safely near junctions.

This leaflet has been designed to inform you of the things your child will be learning so you can reinforce them with your child while crossing the road.

Please remember that this training is a long-term project and is preparing children for *future safety* on the road. We *strongly recommend* that they be supervised by an adult outside school hours and be accompanied by an adult whenever crossing the road.

Aim of skill 3

- Crossing at junctions means that traffic can come from different directions. Children will be trained to look in all directions for traffic, especially looking behind them.

Subject:

The training will introduce the children to three types of junction.

- Simple (Usually T junctions/ Cross Roads)
- Hazardous (e.g. parked cars/ busy main roads)
- Complex (staggered junctions)

Crossing at a Simple Junction

A Simple Junction is a T-Junction where there are no parked cars or any other obstruction to the child's view.

From a starting point a short distance away from the junction move to a kerbside position where both you and your child can see down all three streets (usually near the corner)

Make sure you have a clear unobstructed view down all three streets

- Stop at the kerb
- Look down the road further to your **RIGHT** (this road may be behind you)
- If you have a clear view.....
- Look down the road to the **LEFT**
- If you have a clear view..... Look down the next road to your left
- If you have a clear view.....
- Look through all three directions again
- If you **DO NOT** have a clear view down any of the streets, explain that this would not be a safe place and move away
- If you have a clear view down each street and there is no traffic coming, cross the road as in Skill 1

Crossing near hazardous junctions

Although still a T-Junction, the situation is more complicated in these cases due to parked cars, hedges or other obstructions which prevent the children from seeing in one or more directions from a single kerbside position.

In the previous section, the children learned how to look down each street systematically for traffic. In this phase, the children are taught that this does not necessarily mean they can see properly down one or more streets. Untrained children fail to realise this. If their view is blocked in one or more directions, children must learn to find a safer crossing place nearby.

In choosing an alternative route, children should learn that it is generally better to cross one road rather than two, as they will be less exposed to traffic. However, remember that there may be exceptions to this (e.g. obstructing objects).

These are the steps we teach the children to work through:

- Choose a kerbside position near the corner as before
- Stop at the kerb
- Look down the road furthest to the RIGHT. If you have a clear view.....
- Look down the next road to your LEFT. If you have a clear view.....
- Look down the next road to your LEFT.

If you do not have a clear view explain that it is not possible to see down all the roads from this position so you must move to another place.

- Move away to a safer place where the obstruction to your vision is eliminated.
- Look for traffic using the same right-left search sequence.
- Scan through all 3 directions again
- If you do have a clear view down each street and there is no traffic coming, cross in a straight line.
- If traffic should come at any stage, **STOP** and start the looking sequence again when the traffic has passed.

Crossing the road near complex (staggered) junctions.

This type of junction is even more difficult because traffic can approach from four directions, and it is not possible to see down all the roads from a single kerbside position. The children must learn that they cannot see down all the streets from any single, fixed position and must find another place to cross.

In choosing an alternative route, children should learn it is generally better to cross one road rather than two, as they will be less exposed to the traffic. However, remember that there may be exceptions to this (e.g. obstructing objects).

These are the steps we teach the children to work through.

- From a starting position a short distance away from the junction, move to a kerbside position where it is possible for both you and your child to see in *three* directions (i.e. 'eliminate' one of the streets). *Make sure your view is now unobstructed.*
- Stop at the Kerb
- Look down the road furthest to the **RIGHT**. If you have a clear view...
- Look down the next street to the **LEFT**. If you have a clear view ...
- Look down the next road to your **LEFT**. If you have a clear view ...
- Scan through the *sequence again*
- If you *do* have a clear view in each direction *and* there is no traffic coming, cross in a straight line.
- If traffic should come at any stage, **STOP** and start the looking sequence again when the traffic has passed

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Whilst out on the road these are some other issues which you could discuss with your child.

When walking along the pavement, to be aware of driveways/ entrances where cars reverse out (Scooby Doo's)

What the lights mean on the back of a car

Clues to look for when walking through a car park and there is no pavement

We hope you find this information useful.

Kerbcraft information for parents

