Starting school

More than 40,000 children are killed or injured each year as a result of road accidents. Most of these accidents happen near to home and many of them on journeys to and from school.

The problem

With the increase in car dependency many children these days do not get enough experience of being pedestrians. Not walking reduces fitness and increases the risk of obesity. This means they are growing up with limited experience of how to cross busy roads. Over the last few years this has led to an increase in the number of child pedestrian casualties.

How can we improve things for the future?

Practical pedestrian training for young children can significantly reduce child accident rates. Supervised training of children at the roadside in small groups will provide an excellent opportunity to gain the skills required to keep them safe on the roads for the rest of their lives.

So what is STEPs?

STEPs is a pedestrian training scheme aimed at young children. The scheme relies on using trained parent volunteers to teach children at the roadside. This method of training supersedes the traditional green cross code style of training and should make a significant difference to the safety of young pedestrians.

STEPs aims to teach children how to deal with the following three situations.

1st STEPs

Choosing **safe places** and **routes** to cross the road

- choose a designated safe place to cross if you can
- can your child see the road clearly?
- bend down to your child's height – you will be able to see exactly what they can and cannot see
- are there any obstacles and obstructions blocking your child's view?
- if you cannot see the driver, the driver cannot see you
- if you cannot see the road clearly, move to another place where you can see clearly
- when you have a clear vision in each direction, then ask your child 'is it safe to cross?'
- encourage your child to cross the road using the shortest possible route: straight across the road
- always encourage your child to keep looking and listening whilst you cross
- get your child to look right, left and right again – pointing out that the traffic from the right will be closest to them.

2nd STEPs

Crossing **safely** between **parked cars**

- choose to cross between smaller vehicles in a space big enough for you but not big enough for a car to pull into – larger vehicles can mask your child from the driver's view
- check that there are no obstructions preventing you reaching the other side of the road safely
- before stepping into the road in between the vehicles make sure that it is safe to do so
- check for clues to tell you whether the vehicle is likely to move
  - look for the driver of the vehicle
  - can you hear the engine?
  - can you see any of the vehicle's lights on?
  - can you see any exhaust fumes?
- if it is safe, move to the outside edge of the vehicle on your left – this increases the vision to your right
- this is called 'the new line of sight'– this is now your new kerb position.
- now can you see the road clearly?
- look for oncoming traffic – is it safe to cross?

3rd STEPs

Crossing **safely** at **junctions**

- teach your child how to position themselves at junctions so that they can see clearly down **all roads** leading to the junction
- teach them to systematically search for traffic
- always start with the road immediately to your right (this could be the road behind you)
- sweep or pan around from right to left checking all the roads
- ensure that you can see and be seen and that the roads are free from traffic
- check each road twice
- if it is safe to cross, do so
- remember to keep looking and listening for traffic whilst you cross
- move away from the junction and find a safer alternative if there are obstructions down any road
- practice this method at all types of junctions.

Volunteer involvement

Can you help?

STEPs need your help as parents!

- you will receive proper on-the-job training and support from designated STEPs trainers
- STEPs is going to be a lot of fun
- STEPs is all done in school time
- make a real difference to the future safety of local children
- reduce pollution
- improve fitness

You can help!

Practice with your children

For more information

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bcpcouncil.gov.uk

STEPs

Stepping out safely

A lesson for life

STEPs
Safety training and education for pedestrians

bcpcouncil.gov.uk

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