

Teacher's notes

Every year thousands of children are harmed or put in danger. Unfortunately nowadays nearly everywhere we go and everything we do has an element of danger to it.

It is, therefore, important for children to understand the wide range of safety issues that exist, understand the times that they could face danger and be able to avoid potential areas of danger in order to keep themselves safe.

Areas for discussion

On the road

Cars
Bicycles
Lorries

In the home

Scissors
Poisons

Hot liquids

Matches
Cookers

In the playground

Swings
Seesaws
Slides

In the park

Lakes
Rivers
Dogs

Firework night

Fireworks
bonfires

There are lots of different situations that can be unsafe for children but it is worth considering two of these in more detail:

At Home

Nearly half of all childhood accidental injuries occur at home and in the garden. Although accidental injuries are varied there are 4 most common types:

- Falls
- Striking or collision with a person or an object
- Burns and Scalding
- Poisoning

Other injuries in the home include: cutting, piercing, crushing, pinching, suffocation, choking and near drowning.

The five most common locations are:

- Living/Dining room
- Garden
- Kitchen
- Stairs
- Bedroom

On the Road

The majority of all road accidents involve some human error and most accidents could be prevented with care and simple common sense. Most accidents occur in built up areas and happen in daylight and can involve motor vehicles, motor cycles, pedal cycles and pedestrians.

We are all pedestrians at some time; most of us walk across a road at least once a day and we have no protective shell, such as a car body, to protect us. Those most at risk are 5 to 14 year olds, usually because they are not aware of the dangers that exist or they take risks that adults wouldn't.

Firework night

Despite annual safety warnings, Bonfire Night week still ends in disaster for far too many families. However, fireworks and bonfire evenings can provide fun and entertainment for families as long as everyone follows the right safety procedures and remembers that fireworks can be dangerous if misused.

Young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers. Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks.

Sparklers

These are often viewed as being harmless, but they do burn at fierce temperatures. Sparklers should not be given to anyone under the age of five. The heat from a sparkler is the equivalent to the heat from a welding torch.

Pets

Animals do not like bonfires or fireworks as the flames and noise upsets them. They should always be kept safely indoors.

Please see www.fireworksafety.co.uk