

Leeds Road Safety Promotion Unit

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Leeds City Council

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Spike's Circle Time

Every day in the UK, between 30-40 children between 5-15 years are killed or seriously injured in incidents on our roads – none of these children expected that they would be in an accident when they left their home to start the day.

The Road Safety Unit has developed some Circle Time ideas providing an ideal opportunity to include Road Safety education in the curriculum with the minimum of planning.

Using **Spike the Road Safety Hedgehog**, who will be the 'talking object', there are topic ideas for discussion that can be used with different year groups.

Whilst allowing development of children's speaking and listening skills, Spike's Circle Time offers opportunities for the class to consider positive solutions and outcomes to the road safety issues discussed.

The session could begin with positive comments about how important we each are, how we would feel if one of the class was hurt in a road accident, and about being responsible for our own safety. The teacher could then ask the children to respond to a hypothetical situation (see road safety issues highlighted overleaf) with their opinions and comments.

The Circle Time session could be progressed by asking children what they could do if.....



1. Other children encouraged them to behave dangerously near the road. (playing chicken for example).



2. They were in a car, and the driver, or other passengers didn't put on their seatbelt before the car set off.



3. Their best friend was given a new bike and a cycle helmet, but didn't want to wear the helmet in case they looked stupid.



4. They were in the car and felt frightened about the way the driver drove the car, and behaved towards other drivers and situations on the road.



5. Some young people that they knew asked them if they wanted to go with them in a car that one of them was driving.



6. The driver of the car they were travelling in got a text message on their mobile and started trying to read it while they were driving.



7. The lollipop lady that they usually cross the road with wasn't there and there were cars parked all the way along the road.

The potential consequences and effects of these issues could then be explored using 'Spike' to encourage the children to share their ideas. Discussion could include

- 1.... peer group pressure, responsibility for yourself and others, risks, making decisions and possible consequences.
- 2.... responsibility to others, why we have to make some rules into laws to stop people being hurt.
- 3.... being sensible, being confident, being supportive of each other, peer group pressure, not taking risks.
- 4.... how to broach sensitive subjects, how to explain feelings and fears, thinking about suitable resolutions.
- 5.... peer group pressure, what children think of people who steal other people's cars to 'joy' ride, the danger of putting their life at risk, who else could be affected.
- 6.... expressing immediate fear, communicating what you want someone to do, the consequences of not concentrating, taking risks.
- 7.... thinking through a situation, examining what options they have, remembering what instructions they may have been given and skills they have been taught.

The session can be completed by reinforcing the positive messages and passing a 'stay safe' comment around the group