

The stop, look, listen and think sequence and the Green Cross Code quick guide

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This quick guide outlines the two approaches that children should be taught to encourage children to be aware of traffic and keep safe when crossing the road.

The Stop, Look, Listen and Think sequence

The Stop, Look, Listen, and Think sequence is a safety rule that is often taught to children aged 5-6 years old, to help them stay safe when crossing the street. The idea behind the rule is to encourage children to take a moment to assess the situation and make a safe decision before proceeding. The sequence is

- **Stop:** when you approach a crossing, **STOP** before you come to the edge of the pavement
- **Look:** **LOOK** all around for traffic, as traffic can come from any direction
- **Listen:** **LISTEN** for vehicles too. You may be able to hear them before you see them
- **Think:** is there enough time for you to cross the road safely?

The Green Cross Code

Building on the Stop, Look, Listen and Think sequence, the Green Cross Code can be taught to children aged 7, who can then put it into practise. The Green Cross code has five steps:

1) Find a safe place to cross.

- Use a pedestrian crossing if there is one
- Choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions
- If an obstacle is blocking your view of the road, choose a better place to cross! Find a space where you can reach the pavement or the other side of the road.

2) Stop in a place where you can see anything that is coming along the road

- Do not stand on the kerb
- If there is no pavement, stand at the edge of the road

3) Look all around for traffic and listen

- Traffic can come from any direction
- Sometimes you can hear traffic before you see it
- If you see or hear an emergency vehicle in the distance, let it pass

accidents don't have to happen

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4) If traffic is coming, let it pass

- Never run across the road when traffic is coming, even if you think there is time. It can be difficult to judge the speed of traffic
- Be aware that traffic may speed up

5) When it is safe, go straight across the road. Do not run!

- Continue to look and listen as you cross
- Look out for cyclists and quieter vehicles, you may not hear them approaching
- Walk straight across the road