

Road Safety in the Primary Curriculum

Year 5

Lesson Plan - 'Accidents Happen'

Note: This is a 'whole day' lesson:

Learning Outcomes

- Pupils will have found out why road accidents are no longer referred to as 'accidents' (as they are mainly foreseeable and preventable)
- Pupils will be aware of the need for rules and that breaking rules is taking risks
- Pupils will have discovered that sometimes rules conflict and they will have to make decisions on the best and safest course of action

1. Accidents and causation factors

Whole Class:

Discuss – 'What does the word 'accident' mean?' (event happening by chance, misfortune especially causing injury)

Group work:

Each person in the group describes an accident that they have had, or that they have seen

Group to choose one of the accidents described. Group to choose someone to take notes

Ask:

- What caused the accident?
- What was going on at the time that might have been a contributory factor?
- Could something have been done to prevent the accident?
- What could have been done to minimise the injury?

Group to choose one person to present the findings to the rest of the class Record the results on the classroom whiteboard

Conclusion (whole class):

So, is an accident really by accident? (Road accidents are now referred to as incidents, crashes or collisions!)

LEARNING OUTCOME:

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2. 'Rules' Whole class

- Traffic Movement Observation Activity
- Discussion – around the questions for the observer on the sheet, and compare with all types of road users sharing the road environment

Conclusion

- Do 'rules' help? E.g. Highway Code
- What happens when people break the rules?
- So, is an accident really by accident?

LEARNING OUTCOME:

Pupils will be aware of the need for rules and that breaking rules is taking risks

3. 'Risks' Whole Class

- What is taking a risk?
- Sometimes we take a risk that is breaking the rules. Why?

Group work - 'What if.....?' activity Ask:

- How easy is it to decide?
- How might this behaviour or taking this risk affect other road users?
- Could it cause an 'accident'?
- Did you want to change your decision after thinking about and discussing the possible outcomes?

Conclusion

- Accidents aren't really accidents – they can be prevented by everybody behaving safely and sensibly
- Sometimes you may have to 'weigh up the odds' and make the safest- decision possible in the circumstances.

LEARNING OUTCOME:

Pupils will have discovered that sometimes rules conflict and they will have to make decisions on the best and safest course of action

Resources

Paper
Writing and drawing materials 'What if....?' worksheets