


 Themes for early years
STEPPING STONE

Begin to differentiate colours.

EARLY LEARNING GOAL

Explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in two or three dimensions. (CD)

ASSESSMENT

Can the children name, identify and differentiate colours?

Safe crossing

**What you need**

Large sheets of paper; thick coloured marker pens; thick card; scissors; strong tape; stapler (adult use); long cardboard tubes or an old broom stick; local crossing patrol person (if possible); photograph of a crossing patrol person from the CD-ROM; poem 'Crossing the road' on page 89 or on the CD-ROM.

Preparation

If possible, invite the local patrol person in to your setting to show the children their uniform and 'lollipop'. Alternatively, observe the photograph of a crossing patrol person on the CD-ROM.

What to do

Join in together saying the poem 'Crossing the road' on page 89 and talk to the children about how the local crossing patrol person helps the children and parents who live nearby.

Provide large sheets of paper and thick marker pens and invite the children to draw a simple, bold design of a 'new' lollipop or crossing patrol sign. Encourage them to think about the best size, shape and colours to use for their lollipop or sign so that it can be easily seen and recognised by cars and children.

Ask questions: *Would a small or large sign be easiest for drivers to see? What would be more noticeable – dark or bright colours? Should your sign be tall or short, wide or narrow?*

Encourage the children to use thick card to construct a life-sized example of their lollipop by drawing, colouring and cutting out two signs showing the front and back view.

Help the children to attach the two signs, back-to-back, to the top of a long cardboard tube or broom stick using strong tape and a stapler. Invite the children to use their sign during role play outside.

Discussion

Take the children on a walk outside to observe and talk about other important signs and notices in the local environment.

Follow-up activities

- Invite the crossing patrol person back to your setting to talk to the children about their models.
- Talk with the children about road safety or invite the local police liaison officer into your setting.

Differentiation

Encourage younger or less able children to work together to create a sign. Challenge older or more able children to think about a sign that could still be seen on a dull day by investigating colours that are most easily seen at night and by finding out about reflective materials.

**ON THE CD-ROM**

- Photograph of a crossing patrol person
- Poem 'Crossing the road'