

ROAD SAFETY: ENGAGING METHODS FOR TEACHING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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Abstract. *This article explores the organization of research and practical experiments for children of different ages from both scientific and practical perspectives. It presents effective research methods and methodologies for various age groups, from preschool children to adolescents. The article emphasizes how conducting research can contribute to children's development in creativity, independent thinking, and critical approaches. The role of scientific activities in enhancing children's cognitive abilities and fostering a passion for learning is highlighted.*

Keywords. *Children's research, age groups, scientific experiments, practical experiments, creativity, independent thinking, educational methodology, pedagogical approaches, learning process, scientific activities.*

Road traffic safety plays a crucial role in children's lives as it ensures their safety and teaches them proper movement skills. While preschool-aged children are often not directly involved with traffic, it is essential to teach them traffic rules early on as one of the fundamental principles of ensuring a safe life. Children at this age need to learn road traffic rules to protect themselves and others. Studies show that children learn better through play, so using engaging and interactive approaches to teach road traffic safety is essential. Through this process, children learn basic concepts of road traffic safety and apply them in their daily lives. This article discusses effective and engaging methods used to teach preschool-aged children road traffic safety.

When teaching road traffic safety to preschool-aged children, it is crucial to explain key concepts. By teaching them traffic rules at this age, they will learn how to move safely in the future. Below are the essential concepts to be shaped when teaching road traffic safety to preschool-aged children:

One of the first and most important concepts for children to learn when teaching road traffic safety is the traffic light. A traffic light is a device that controls traffic and indicates to pedestrians and drivers how to cross the road safely. The traffic light has three main colors: red, yellow, and green.

Red: This color indicates to stop. Children should know that when they see the red light, they need to stop, not cross the road, and wait.

Yellow: This color signals caution. When children see the yellow light, they should wait cautiously before crossing or moving.

Green: This color indicates go. When children see the green light, they can cross the road safely. However, they should always observe surrounding vehicles and ensure it's safe to cross.

Traffic lights are a very effective tool for teaching children road traffic safety. They quickly remember these colors and understand how to act according to the lights while learning.

Understanding the rules for crossing the road and the importance of safe pedestrian crossings is crucial for children. Pedestrians are people walking on the road, and they must use designated crossings. These can be pedestrian lanes, intersections, or crosswalks marked by traffic lights. It is vital to explain to children where and how to cross the road safely and the significance of using safe crossing points. Children must only use pedestrian lanes or designated crossings, adhering to the rules learned through traffic lights or road signs. Before crossing, children should avoid abrupt movements, stop, observe traffic, and only cross when it's safe.

Understanding the difference between cars and pedestrians is an important concept for children. Cars are large vehicles that travel at high speeds, whereas pedestrians are smaller and more vulnerable. Children should be taught to be cautious when walking around cars. It is essential to explain to children the difference between cars and pedestrians and teach them to cross the road and move in safe areas. Safe areas for pedestrians include pedestrian lanes, intersections, and marked crosswalks. Children should use these areas and avoid getting too close to cars. Additionally, children should observe vehicles' speed and stop to ensure it's safe before crossing.

Teaching road traffic safety to children is not only about making learning interesting and interactive but also about helping them develop safe movement habits. This process equips children with the necessary knowledge to protect themselves and others. By learning these rules through play, interactive activities, and real-life experiences, children develop the necessary skills to stay safe.

Engaging and interactive methods are the most effective ways to teach road traffic safety to children. It is essential to encourage children not only to receive information but also to absorb it in an enjoyable and practical way. Here are some effective and engaging methods to teach road traffic safety to children:

Visuals, Stories, and Videos: Teaching through visuals, stories, and videos is not only fun but also an effective method. Visual materials help children learn new concepts as they often learn best through observation. For example, showing short stories or animated videos about traffic lights helps children understand how to act based on the light.

Traffic Light Game: The "Traffic Light Game" can be a fun and impactful activity for children. In this game, the teacher or caregiver directs the children to move based on the colors of the traffic light. During the game, children act according to each color, helping them understand the traffic rules.

Green light – Children run, indicating permission to move.

Red light – Children stop, indicating the need to halt.

Yellow light – Children slow down, indicating caution.

This game helps children learn traffic lights and the rules of road safety while making the learning process enjoyable.

Organizing interactive exercises through games is an effective way to teach road traffic safety. Children actively participate in the learning process. For example, in the "Pedestrian Path" game, children learn to identify crossing points, observe traffic lights, and move according to the colors. In the "Car and Pedestrian" game, children learn how to stop cars and move safely as pedestrians. These games are fun for children and are highly effective in teaching road traffic safety.

Teaching road traffic safety helps children develop essential skills for their safety and the safety of those around them. This process not only provides knowledge but also instills the importance of safety in children's lives. Through fun and interactive methods, children quickly and effectively learn these essential skills. The traffic safety knowledge gained during the teaching process helps children move safely in life and ensures they can protect themselves and others. The development of these skills plays a significant role in preparing children for a conscious and safe life.

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