



TfL
DISCOVERERS

Helping little Londoners
be safe around roads

TfL Discoverers

Activity Guide



Introduction

Welcome to TfL Discoverers, a programme to help young Londoners be safe on and around roads.

Children aged 3-4 can be taught simple ways to keep themselves safe on our streets, with the support of trusted adults. By sharing important road safety messages with children from a young age, we can help them develop good habits for life.

This guide contains:

- An introduction to our Road Safety Socks
- Liv's story, Stop. Look. Listen. Think.
- Zeb's story, A Safe Place To Cross.
- Jaz's story, Stay Safe When Crossing the Road.
- Road safety story enhancements
- A take home guide for parents.

Each resource is designed to be flexible. Use them as stand-alone resources, or add them to your existing road safety sessions.

Meet the Road Safety Socks and hear their stories!

Liv, Zeb and Jaz are our three, fun and loveable characters. They are the best of friends, and each has an important message they want to share about road safety.

Each character will deliver a different key message and the story builds and develops on learning from others.

- Liv is our **'Stop. Look. Listen. Think'** champion.
- Zeb is the ruler of the **road crossing**.
- Jaz is an 8-armed cuddle captain **who clings onto a trusted adult's hand** when faced with a busy crossing.

Each character has a story to tell, and the accompanying story guides will support teachers to assess prior learning and revisit important concepts.

There's also the catchy Road Safety Socks Song, for children to sing along to as well!

Download the song at tfl.gov.uk/tfldiscoverers

Session outline and delivery

There are three sessions in total and each one is designed to be flexible.

Feel free to use them how you wish and follow each session plan at your own pace. You can use them to add to your existing road safety sessions or you can use the whole session.

Each session consists of:

- Learning objectives to match the key message.
- An introduction to establish children's prior knowledge and understanding.
- A Road Safety Sock story and follow-up activities.

Meet the Characters



Liv

Liv is **active** and **energetic**.
Liv **loves playing with friends**.
Liv **really enjoys scooting**.
Liv is lightning-quick but is **always the first to stop** as still as a statue when near danger.
Liv knows to **'Stop. Look. Listen. Think'** before crossing the road.

Zeb

Zeb is confident and **loves being the centre of attention**.

Zeb is **eagle-eyed** and a great listener.

Zeb **loves music and dancing**, it's all about showing off for Zeb.

Zeb can **spot the best place to cross the road** thanks to his big, friendly eyes.

Zeb knows to **always look for the green person** before crossing the road.



Jaz

Jaz is the **sensitive** type.

Jaz is **kind** and **caring**.

Jaz is the 'cuddle captain'. Because Jaz **has 8 arms!**

Jaz is an **expert in holding a trusted adult's hand** when crossing the road and that's what keeps Jaz super safe.



Stop. Look. Listen. Think.

Key messages

Stop. Look. Listen. And think, before crossing the road with a grown-up.

You'll need:
Liv's story and picture.

The Road Safety Song at tfl.gov.uk/tfldiscoverers



Story guide

Introduce the road safety topic by asking these key questions:

Has anybody crossed the road today?

Do you know any rules for crossing the road?

Why do you think we have rules for crossing the road?

Emphasise to children that it's very important to stay safe around roads and that they are going to learn some ways to make sure they cross the road in the best way.

Play the Road Safety Socks Song and encourage the children to sing along.

Before the story

Show children the different actions they will use during the story:

Stop – a flat, raised palm.

Look – forefingers pointing to eyes.

Listen – hands cupped around ears.

Think – tapping an index finger to the side of the head.

Introduce the children to Liv. Show them her picture. What do they think she'll be like?

After the story

Try the **Stop. Look. Listen. Think** actions again, saying the words each time.

Remind children that this is the safe behaviour they must use every time they cross the road.

Liv is crazy about 'scooting' – on a bright red scooter. 'WOOOSH!' goes the scooter.

On the way to the park one day, Liv was going really fast. But the park is on the other side of a busy road. And 'WOOOSH' became...**STOP!**

Liv knows to stop at the busy road. Liv gets off the scooter and **stands still, like a statue.** Together, Liv and Liv's grown-up **look out for cars.**

And when the **road is clear**, Liv **listens** out for cars to check if any more are coming.

Now **the road has no cars**, Liv has one more thing to do – **THINK.** **Is it safe to cross?**



Action
STOP
Do the 'STOP' signal together, with a flat, raised palm.

Action
LOOK
using thumbs and forefingers to make 'glasses' on your face to look for oncoming cars.

Action
LISTEN
Can we hear any more traffic? Have your child cup an ear and listen.

Action
THINK
If there are no cars, do you think it would be safe to cross the road now? Think...

Yes it is safe.

Liv crosses the road. Liv can't wait to 'Wooosh' around the park on the scooter.

A Safe Place to Cross

Key messages

The best way to cross at appropriate crossings, with a grown-up.

You'll need:
Zeb's story and picture.

2 x Safe Crossing Cards showing pictures of the red and green person. You will need to make these before the session.

The Road Safety Song at tfl.gov.uk/tfldiscoverers



Story guide

Reintroduce road safety as a topic by asking these questions:

Does anyone remember any road safety rules from our previous story?

What did Liv always do before she crossed the road?

Emphasise to children that it's very important to stay safe around roads and that they are going to learn some ways to make sure they cross the road in the best way.

Play the Road Safety Socks Song and encourage children to sing along.

Before the story

Ask children these key questions to introduce Zeb's story:

Can you think of a good place to cross a road?
Can you describe what a 'safe place to cross' looks like?

Talk about the different types of crossings – the ones that have lights and the ones that have buttons to press.

Tell children that Liv from our previous story has a friend called Zeb. Show them Zeb (left) and ask them what they think Zeb might be like.

After the story

Show your child your pre-made Safe Crossing Cards.

Ask them what they should do when they see the green person and what they should do when they see the red person.

Explain that red means stop, and green means go. Practise this.



Zeb's Story

Zeb doesn't walk along the street. Zeb dances along it.

Zeb and Liv are best friends.

One day, Zeb is dancing along the street to the park. Zeb sees Liv.

"Liv!" Zeb shouts and waves.

Liv zooms up to Zeb and stops.

"Let's cross the road!" says Liv.

"We can't cross here", warns Zeb. "There's a big tree and some parked cars. **The drivers won't be able to see us!**"

Zeb leads Liv to a **crossing, further down the road.**

"This is safe." Zeb says to Liv.

"There is a button to press. **The traffic lights stop the cars.** Look at the white lines and the bumpy pavement. **We can cross here.**"

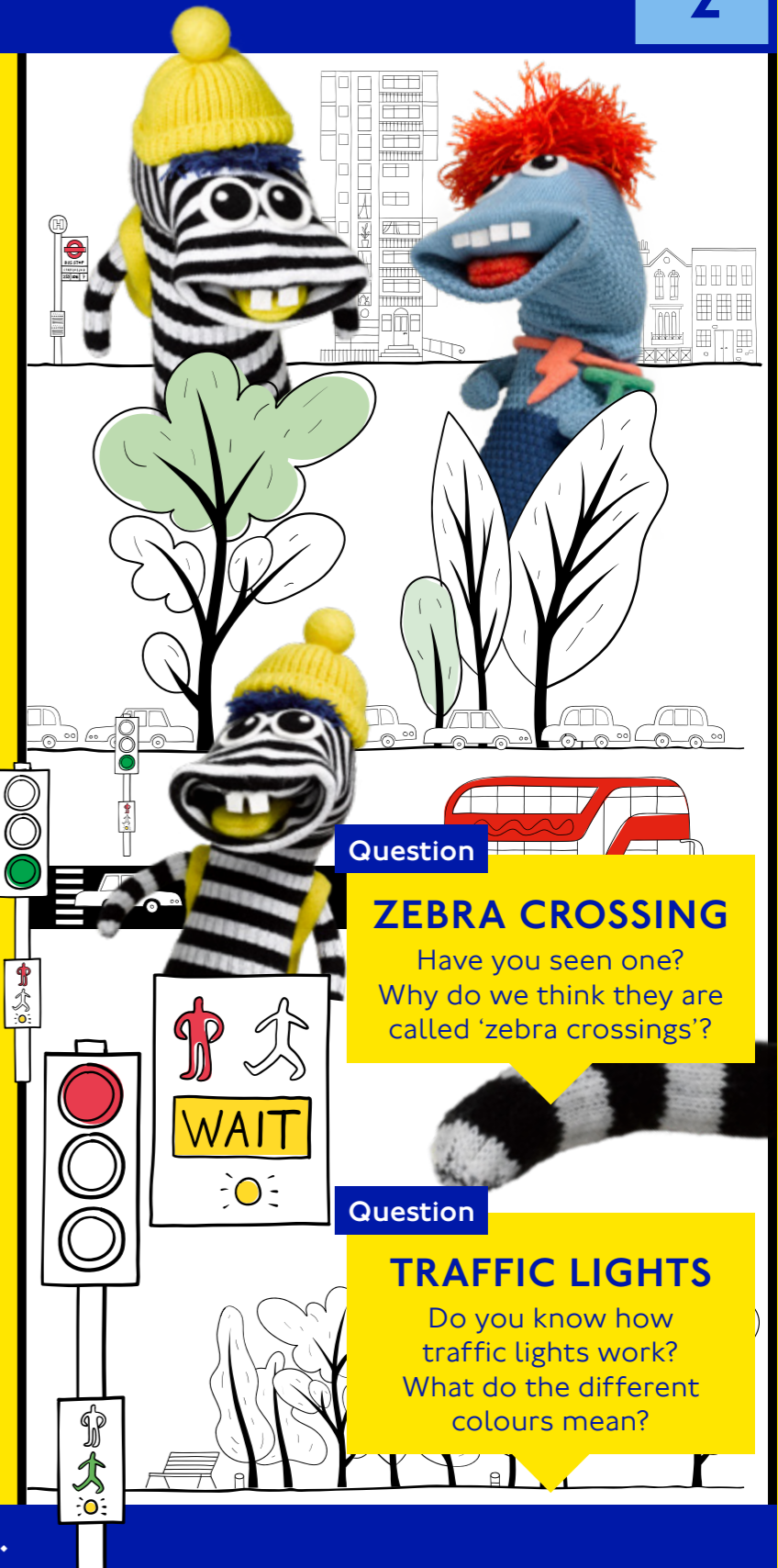
"When the cars stop and **the green person tells us, it's safe to cross.**"

Zeb presses the button. It says "WAIT".

Liv and Zeb **wait with their grown-ups until the cars stop.**

The green person appears.

...and they both cross the road to the park – **safe and sound.**



Question

ZEBRA CROSSING

Have you seen one?
Why do we think they are called 'zebra crossings'?

Question

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Do you know how traffic lights work?
What do the different colours mean?

Stay Safe When Crossing the Road

Key messages

Hold a trusted grown-up's hand and listen to a grown-up near the road.

You'll need:
Jaz's story and picture.

The Road Safety Song at tfl.gov.uk/tfldiscoverers



Story guide

Remind children of the Road Safety Socks Song and sing it together.

Revisit previous learning together by asking these questions:

Can you remember what we learned about safe places to cross the road?

Can you tell me what a safe crossing looks like? Emphasise to children that it's very important to stay safe around roads and that they are going to learn some ways to make sure they cross the road in the best way.

Before the story

Remind children of Liv and Zeb and what we know about them. Explain that there is a third Road Safety Sock that they are about to meet. Ask them to say hello to Jaz. Show children the picture of Jaz and ask them what they notice about them.

Explain to children that there's an action they'll need to do during the story. They will need to hold hands with the person next to them. Get children to practice this.

After the story

Talk to children about the kinds of things trusted adults might say to them when they are near cars or going to cross the road.

Discuss why it's important to do the things that trusted adults ask them to do near roads.

Ask children to act out what they would do when they are about to cross the road with a trusted adult.

Act out the things that trusted adults might say and how to respond.



Jaz's Story

Jaz has lots of hands. Eight of them. Which is handy!

Jaz is a good friend of Liv and Zeb. Sometimes they meet in the park to play.

One day, Jaz is **walking to the park, holding Mum's hand** (and legs and arms and shoulders and coat and hat!).

Jaz sees Zeb, Liv and their grown-ups **by the crossing**. Jaz and Mum walk up to them. "Are you going to the park?"

Jaz says. "**It's a good idea that you are using the crossing.**"

Zeb agrees.

"We're waiting for the green person to light up", Liv says.

"That is very sensible, but **you also need to wait for your grown-up to hold your hand before you cross**", Jaz reminds the group.

The green person lights up.

So, they all **hold hands** with their grown-ups to **safely cross the road** to the park.

"You are good at reminding people how to stay safe", Zeb says to Jaz.

Jaz laughs and shoves all eight hands into their jacket pockets.



Road Safety Story Enhancements

Physical Development – Act it out!

Stop, look, listen, think!

Recall the actions from Liv's story. Call out stop, look, listen, or think and ask the children to show you the action for each one.

Dance like Zeb!

Play some music and get the children to dance like Zeb. When the music stops, everyone must stop dancing and stand still, to listen out for traffic...

Cuddle Captain Jaz!

Get the children to imagine they have lots of arms, just like Jaz, and encourage them to wiggle and wave them. When 'Traffic light!' is shouted, children pretend to be Jaz and cling on to their nearest friend.



Expressive Arts and Design – Get creative!

- **Make a 'STOP' collage** by getting the children to make a 'STOP' sign handprints by dipping their hands in paint. Cut them out and display them in your early years setting.
- **Children can create their own Road Safety Sock characters** using different materials, like card, paper, old socks and felt. They could use them for role play or create puppet shows about road safety.
- **Set up a road crossing small world scenario** for children to play with using any available materials such as Lego, or car mats, etc. This will allow them to act out safe behaviours with toys.

Outdoor Provision – Out and about!

- **Review the road safety rules** every time you leave the early years setting, no matter how small the excursion. Reviewing the road safety rules before and after any trip ensures these rules are well-remembered.
- **Get in some extra practice and walk** to the nearest safe road crossing. Ask the children what they must do when they get there. Remind them of their words and actions. Get the children to tell you each time it is or isn't safe to cross – practice makes perfect!

Outdoor Provision (cont.)

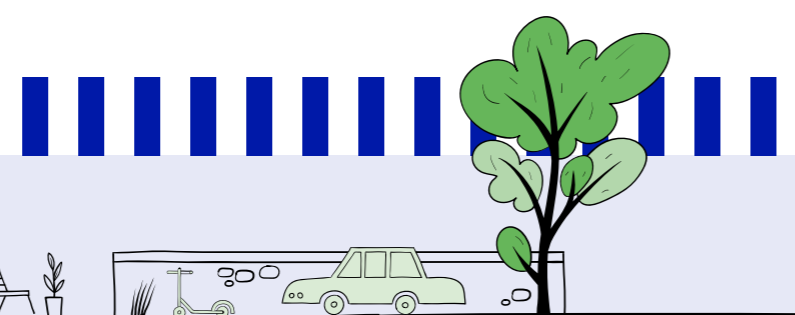
- **If you have a large enough outdoor space, create a 'crossing' in a designated area.** Whenever children are playing outside, remind them that if they want to 'cross' that area they must use the safe behaviours and signs.



Take Home Guide

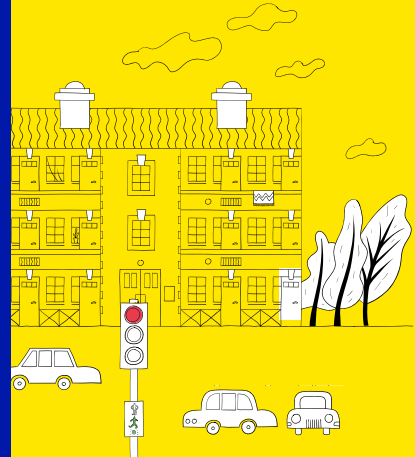
Continue your child's important road safety learning at home with these flexible and easily-adaptable activities.

1. **Sing** the Stop. Look. Listen. Think. road safety song at home. Get your child to teach you the actions.
2. **Sing** the road safety song every time you come to a crossing.
3. **Play** 'spot the sign' when out and about. How many STOP signs can you count?
4. **Make** a new Road Safety Sock puppet character to play with at home.
5. **Paint** your own traffic lights and play a game of stop and go.
6. **Discuss** with children all the adults they know and trust whose hands they can hold to stay safe near roads.





Thank you for taking part in the TfL Discoverers programme



With your support, we can help our kids stay safe on and around London's roads.

If you have any questions please visit tfl.gov.uk/tfldiscoverers

Stay safe

