

We are the brightest

Practice: Experiments on the topic of visibility.

Providing practical examples and performing experiments are the best ways for children to experience what visibility is and how it affects safety. This is best done with your class outside at dusk or when it's dark in a car-free location. A large darkened room indoors is also suitable if you cannot complete the exercises outdoors.

More at:
thebrightest.ch



Steal the spotlight

Exercise 1

Visible from a distance.



Ask two groups of three children each to approach the rest of the class from a distance of no more than 150 metres.

Group 1 wears reflectors; group 2 does not.

Ask the class what they've noticed.

Solution:

Reflectors make people visible sooner.

People who shine can be seen from a distance. Reflectors greatly increase your visibility. Other road users can see you four to five times earlier if you're wearing reflectors. This allows them to react early and take you into consideration.

Exercise 2

Reflectors on your arms and legs.

Ask two groups of three children each to wear reflectors. One group wears them on their upper body only; the other one wears them on both arms and both legs. Again, they walk towards the class from a distance of 150 metres.

Ask the class which group stands out more.

Solution:

Movement with reflectors makes you stand out more.

Reflectors are especially effective where you move, i.e. on your arms and legs. This will make you stand out more and provide better protection.

Exercise 3

On your bike.

Ask two groups of three children each to cycle towards the class from some distance away. One group has front and rear lights plus reflectors on their bikes and on their bodies; the second group has only the legally required minimum (front and rear light, plus a reflector).

Ask the class which group stands out more.

Solution:

Reflectors are important on bikes too.

The law says that bikes must have two stationary lights (white at the front, red at the back) and reflectors. But, as you've just seen, you will be far more visible if you wear additional reflectors on your clothes and helmet.

Exercise 4

How a driver sees you from a car.

To give children an idea of how safe they are, it's worthwhile changing perspectives. The video <https://youtu.be/EHKT2FCPHVo> allows you to demonstrate how visible pedestrians are to car drivers.

Ask the class to watch carefully and observe what difference the visibility makes. Afterwards, ask them what they saw.

Solution:

When you stand out and shine, you stay safe on the road

When visibility is poor, drivers sometimes don't see you until it's very late. You can make yourselves safer by shining and standing out. The sooner you're seen, the sooner a car can slow down or avoid you.