

David Randini's Road Safety Presentation, Road Safety Officers in depth Guide.

This presentation has been put together over a five year period with the constant help of Road safety professional, teachers and David Randini. There is a lot of psychology involved and the children are constantly having the same message drilled into them sometimes in a subliminal way. The main object of this show is to get the children to **Stop** and **Think**, before they cross the road.

They are having fun on the way while this important message is being put across to them

Contents of Presentation.

Warm Up:

1. **The magic spells.** This is a specially selected group of sounds that culminates into a cheer. This immediately turns individuals into a cohesive group and the quiet sounds establish control.
2. It is at this point that I point out this a road safety magic show and that one teacher will cut a piece of rope later in the show. Heath and safety dictates it must be an adult (sharp scissors). This psychologically prepares the teachers and lets them know nothing embarrassing is going to happen to them.

Key Stage One. My Granddads Stair Rod:

This is a funny trick that lets the younger ones know the show will be fun. Although it creates a lot of noise, it is controlled noise mixed with controlled silence. It is also used to choose child in a random way to help later in the show.

Key Stage Two. A Glance it Not Enough (or the amazing growing or shrinking head illusion)

David replaced his original warm trick with this in 2009 not only is it Road safety related but aims to establish control and my prowess as a magician and let them know that they are watching something worth watching.

((All the above are warm ups and introductions which lasts approximately 5 minutes.))

Every single thing they see from now on has a Road safety message built into it:

325000 Paper Trick:

For key stage one the number is not important to them it is just the fact it is a big number that matters. For key stage two, because you are using numbers it is more grown up for them. Statistics change all the time but basically 325000 is the number of people hurt or injured on the United Kingdom roads every year. That's one person every 90 seconds. The paper is torn until the word **you** appears. This establishes that the show is about them and not me. The emphasis changes from me being the magician to them being informed. This trick is also used at the end of the show and provides a very

powerful non magic impression. It is also the bit some road safety officers like the most as it allows a lot of children to be suddenly involved in the show without disruption.

The Magic Rope:

Teaches the importance of STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN and how using them together you can get across the Road in on one safe piece. A teacher is elevated to be a magician; a rope is cut into three pieces, a story is told of a boy who is basically lectured on the importance of the stop, look, and listen message. The story is told in a quiet but positive way which enthrals the children and something happens with every sentence.

The Magic Cat:

A child is chosen usually by the Stair rod trick. A black cat turns yellow to illustrate wearing something BRIGHT at night. Florescent Yellow is used because this is the colour most associated with Road safety For example the lollypop person's coat and safety jackets used by police. Most importantly, yellow safety jackets are used by some schools when they take the children out on walking trips. It also illustrates that it is not just wearing something bright but reflective.

The Balloon Bike:

The child who helps with the cat trick is rewarded by being made a giant balloon motorbike. It is used to emphasize how big a bike looks from the side but not from the front which is how we see them coming up the road and how much harder they are to see from other vehicles. Think once, think twice, think bike is used to punch this message home.

The Colour Changing Car:

Executive man is introduced although he is a grown up he is not very good at crossing the road. For a start he is on the phone. A garage is introduced and inside is a car it changes colour several times and suddenly a little girl appears. Illustrating how hard it is to see children crossing especially between parked cars. She is much better at crossing the road that executive man yet we could not see her which means she has to be extra careful. This trick is especially good for the involvement of key stage one. For key stage two this trick is shortened to get straight to the girl appearing. The language and advice also changes depending on which key stage you are talking to.

Danger Car:

Not always used for Key stage one. Black silhouettes of cars are used to illustrate that vehicles are big lumps of metal that travel along roads at high speed and that we are human and will always come off worse in a collision. A red car is introduced with speed lines behind it. As speeding cars are the most dangerous (many reasons are given) the children call this car danger. It culminates in the danger car turning up right outside their school.

The Road Code:

Is used to re-enforce the messages given throughout the show it features giant blocks to illustrate traffic lights, Stop Look and Listen, A.B.C. (Always Be Careful) and the Green Cross Code. After some play putting the lights away, pelican crossings are discussed with a giant red and green man, stressing the importance of stopping waiting and crossing with care. The zebra crossing is discussed with a giant belisha beacon appearing.

The magic spells are re-introduced adding stop, look and listen, always be careful and arrive alive. A giant Think, Think, Think board is read. I explain that I will do one more thing to make them think. This brings us full circle to the first trick 325000. I point to children in the back row and get them to stand up, approximately 25 and explain that since we started the show this is how many people have been hurt or injured on our roads. This is a powerful moment and sometimes the children gasp at this point. This is when I repeat the punch line of the first trick. "The idea of THIS show is to make sure that NONE of the people hurt or injured on our roads IS YOU."

I thank the teachers and show the children the work sheets I provide. One is a parent's guide to encourage the children to discuss what they have seen at home. The other covers the green cross code, with literacy and numeracy work on the reverse. It also covers wearing seat belts in cars and helmets on bikes and I ask the children to tell us why? I know this is not strictly pedestrian safety but feel both should be mentioned.

So there you have it, there has never been a road safety magic show with so many road safety messages crammed into it. The road code, magic spells and think board re-enforce the messages already given with parrot fashion repetition. I work on three levels at the same time, like Shrek or the Simpsons (a multitasking man, now that's real magic). I have a witty personality which encompasses all ages. Although jokes are thrown in I never lose sight that it is for the children. The children will copy teachers' reactions and if teachers laugh it puts them at ease and makes them feel that they can enjoy themselves as well (that's enough of the psychology). Language is changed for the different key stages

for example the word 'collision' would never be used for key stage one, it would be replaced by the words 'hit by'. Having, said that. With a large age range and sometimes with a large range of ability you can not always use words that every child in the school will understand.

This show has

A simple plot, strong Magic and a CLEAR MESSAGE

Most of all

It is something to children will remember for a very long time