What is a road and what is traffic?

Roads are dangerous places, but it is the traffic on the roads that can hurt your children.
Roads are for traffic. There are quiet roads, busy roads and very busy roads, but there is no such thing as a safe road. It is important to always remember that it only takes one vehicle to have an accident with you or your child. Quiet roads are where most children under seven have their accidents. Often because they are out playing on the pavement. Children’s hearing is not fully developed until later years and locating the direction of sound in a noisy environment is not easy.

Teach your child to recognise different types of traffic:-

- Cars
- Lorries
- Vans
- Buses
- Fire engines
- Police cars
- Ambulances
- Ice cream vans
- Motorcycles
- Bicycles
- Milk floats

- Explain that traffic is anything using the roads, even horses.
- Traffic carries people and things from one place to another.
- Talk about colour, size, sound and speed.
- Explain why vehicles can’t stop instantly. Drivers have to apply breaks.
- Help your child to recognise vehicles not only from how they look but also from the different sounds they make.
- Talk to them about the size and hardness of vehicles on the road, and how much smaller and softer we are, so that they understand it can hurt them.
- Explain near and far.

Children are unlikely to understand the concept of speed. They do not have the ability to judge the speed and distance of vehicles coming towards them.

Ask open questions:

- Name some of the traffic on the road.
- Why is some traffic noisy and some quiet?
- Why do we here traffic before we see it?
- Why do police cars, ambulance and fire engines make so much noise?

Remember to encourage your child to use all their senses to become more aware of traffic.