**Car park safety lesson plans**

**Introduction**

This unit on car park safety features two versions below – Years 0-2 and Years 3-8.

Teachers can run these lessons themselves or with the help of a council coordinator.

Practical lessons can be adapted to suit the school’s carpark rules and layout.

Ninja video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLWGlUy_IWw>

**Additional follow-up activities**

* Postcard with colouring activity
* Word searches

**Years 0-2 lesson plan**

Information and activities for Years 0-2 students.

**Learning objectives**

By the end of the unit students will understand:

1. The dangers of their own school car park and what to look out for.
2. How to behave safely in a car park.

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**Activity 1 – classroom discussion**

Talk to your class about car parks. Depending on age, you can expand on questions below or simplify. This is enhanced by the video and acts as an introduction to the practical lesson in activity 2.

* What are car parks?
* What are they used for?
* Who uses them?
* Where are the car parks in the school?
* What other places have car parks?
* Are car parks safe?
* Are car parks dangerous?

Brainstorm ideas about staying safe in a car park.

**Ninja video**

* Let the group know they are about to watch a video and their job is to remember as many tips as they can.
* Watch the ninja video twice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLWGlUy_IWw>
* Ask kids to put their hand up if they remember any tips and when they explain one of the tips ask why they think that is important.

**Activity 2 – practical lesson**

* Block off the car park so that no cars can enter during the activity. Take the class out to the car park and explain the safe areas of the car park: waiting areas, footpaths etc.
* Remind students to always walk with an adult in a car park and to hold their hands. Explain that car parks are only for walking – no running, no scooters or bikes, no playing.
* Explain the 4 main danger signs to look out for when walking in a car park. See below. Get the students to act out the danger signs to help them remember and to make it a bit more exciting.
* Remind kids to never walk away from their car without an adult. If their caregiver is loading things in or out of the car, ask kids to put a hand on a safe part of the car and not to take it off until the adult is ready.

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| **Danger signs**There are 4 main danger signs that a vehicle may begin moving in the car park.1. **Drivers***Is there a driver in the front seat?* (Pretend to be sitting in a car and steering the wheel.)If there is a driver, students need to know that the car could be moving or about to move. Some cars can be very difficult to see into – tinted windows, small driver, large cars etc.
2. **Lights***Can you see any lights on the car?* (Use your hand to mimic lights coming on and off.)If students can see lights, the car might be ready to move.
3. **Wheels***Are the wheels moving?* (Use your arms to look like moving wheels – similar to a train.)If the wheels are moving, stand back as the car is moving.
4. **Engine***Can you hear the engine?* (Get the kids to make engine sounds – give option for electric car.)If you can hear an engine, the car could move at any moment.
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**Years 3-8 lesson plan**

Information and activities for Years 3-8 students.

**Learning objectives**

By the end of the unit students will understand:

1. The dangers of their own school car park.
2. How to behave safely in a car park.
3. Why certain behaviours are dangerous in car parks and how to spot these behaviours.

**Activities**

There are 2 parts to this activity – classroom activity and practical activity.

**Classroom activity: car park design and discussion**

Print out (or get kids to search on Google Maps) an aerial view of their car park – this should be done in groups to make it easier and more interactive. Alternatively, you could ask students to draw a map of their school car park on a piece of paper.

Start a conversation about their car park and ask about the rules they have for staying safe in their car park. Brainstorm on the whiteboard or get kids to make a list of the rules.

Get groups to mark on their maps safe and dangerous areas in the car park and ask groups to explain how you should behave in different areas of the car park.

**Ninja video**

* Let the group know they are about to watch a video and their job is to remember as many tips as they can.
* Watch the ninja video twice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLWGlUy_IWw>
* Ask kids to put their hand up if they remember any tips and when they explain one of the tips ask why they think that is important.

If the school has no rules to keep students safe in their car park, think of a few important ones and design posters to put up around the school.

**Checklist**

Here are some important topics to cover when discussing car park safety.

* Stop, look and listen before walking through a car park.
* Walk where cars can see you (not too close to big cars).
* If you have to walk behind cars, check for reversing lights – what colour are they?
* Little ninjas must always walk with an adult.
* Little ninjas only play in the playground.
* Walk your bike or scooter in the car park.
* Walk quickly, but safely.

**Practical Activity: identifying hazards in a car park**

Make sure the area you are using is coned off and no cars can enter.

Teachers – you may need to ask your Community Transport or Road Safety Coordinator to drop off resources for this activity. For example, Auckland Transport can provide cut-out figures with plastic bases. Alternatively, you could use students as actors to set up the scenarios below if safe to do so.

Set up various hazards in the car park using the cut-outs or student actors.

Take class out to the car park and in their groups get them to note down all hazards that they see. When everyone is finished, check if they got them all and have a conversation about why the hazard is dangerous and what could be done to make it safer. Encourage ideas that prevent the hazard occurring in the first place.

Hazards could include:

* reversing lights on a car
* child standing too close behind a large car
* toys or balls in a car park
* child on a bike or scooter in car park
* young child alone in a car park.