Activity Page

What Can You See? Testing Vehicle Blindzones

What do we have?

- Another adult
- A parked car
- Child or a small object like a tricycle or safety cone
- Tape measure (optional)



An entire preschool class is in front of this SUV and not a single one of them can be seen by the driver.

Parenting behavior

- ☐ Communicating
- ☐ Designing/guiding
- ☐ Nurturing
- ☐ Responding
- ☐ Supporting learning

How can we do it?

1. Park somewhere safe and flat, away from traffic. Make sure the vehicle is off and the parking brake is set, and keep the keys with you.
2. Have another adult get into the driver's seat, and stand with your child in different places around the car. You can also use an object, like a safety cone or a small bike.
3. Try the front, the back, and both sides. Start right at the bumper. Then move back one step at a time until the driver can see the top of your child's head.
4. Have the driver use the mirrors first and then look around with their eyes. How much of your child can they see from each spot?
5. Now trade places, and have the driver get out and stand where your child was standing. How far back did your child have to go before the driver could see them? If you have a tape measure, you can use it to show the distance.

What's in it for us?

Cognitive

a. Young children often act before they think. Impulse control is still growing during the preschool years.

b. A car gives signals before it moves, like lights coming on or the sound of an engine. Naming these gives your child something specific to watch for.

Connecting across development

- **Language:** Naming where the adult is standing—behind, in front of, beside—builds your child's words for space.
- **Social-emotional:** Keeping your tone calm and curious helps your child learn a rule instead of a fear.

Safety tip

Talk to children about clues that can indicate a car might start moving forward or backward (car lights are on, a person in the driver's seat, hear the engine, see exhaust, etc.). Tell them drivers cannot see them.

Note: This activity page was written by Kids and Car Safety with funding sponsored by Honda.

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Continued learning

Get out of the car and crouch down to your child's level. Seeing how much of it towers over them helps explain why a driver may miss them.

Pick a phrase your family uses near cars to keep your child alert. When other adults are along, say out loud who is watching your child.

Hold your child's hand near parked cars, which can start moving at any moment. This is also true in your own driveway.

Childproof the doors that lead outside, using knob covers or stick-on alarms so that children cannot slip out of the house on their own.

If your vehicle does not have a backup camera, you may be able to add one.

Book sharing

When you see a car or truck in a book, ask your child to point to where the driver sits. "Where are their eyes looking? What can they see?"

Observing my child's development ...

Reflecting with my child ...

Keeping it going ...

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