



Scootability





About the pilot:

More and more children as young as 2 scoot as it is fun and faster than walking. In September 2010, we ran our first pilot scooter training scheme in 3 schools with a view to assessing its impact.



The aims of the training:

- To improve skills and confidence whilst scooting
- To increase awareness of dangers
- To improve awareness of pedestrians



Our evaluation showed that:

- A great majority of children remembered the 5 safety rules
- Most parents thought the training improved the way their children scoot
- “Brilliant course! My child finds it hard to balance on a scooter – This has helped her learn. It enthused her and raised her confidence enormously. Thank you.”

The Media

This scheme captured the media's attention. We received a lot of positive publicity: articles in the Sun, live coverage on BBC breakfast and appearance on Meridian news.

TEACH YOUR KIDS OUR ROLLER HIGHWAY CODE

Scooter camp

By KATE WIGHTON

DO your youngsters turn into terrors on their scooters?

With the number of scooting accidents on the rise, Brighton & Hove City Council have launched safety training lessons in infant and primary schools.

The Scootability course teaches kids the "scooting highway code".

Mums and dads are also being urged to check scooters are in good working order and that their children know how to use them properly.

Here, instructor Mark Locke explains how to make sure your kids don't come a cropper on the school run.

- Don't miss our mini Stig's scooter road test at theun.co.uk/parenting.

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE
Before starting, give the scooter a once-over. The handlebars should be properly tightened, make sure the brake doesn't stick and check that the wheels turn easily.

KEEP EYES ON THE ROAD
Never look down when scooting - it increases the chances of taking a tumble - and watch out for any obstructions ahead.

TURN WITH CONTROL
One common mistake is to turn too quickly, causing the back wheel to spin out. Before kids turn the handlebars they should start to lean into the corner with their body then follow this with turning the handlebars. Turn in long curves, not jagged edges. Younger children prefer to "hop" rather than glide - riding with one foot constantly pushing along the floor. Once they master pushing and gliding, turning becomes easier.

KEEP FEET ON THE SCOOTER
Hills and braking are a major cause of tumbles. Kids shouldn't brake by putting their foot on the floor. If they find themselves going too fast down a hill they should still slow down using the brake to avoid falling off. Some children may be nervous about doing this, if so, they may find it easier if they brake and pushing their knees into their bottom. This automatically puts weight into their back foot and they will press down on the brake. But they should be careful not to put sudden pressure on the brake, as this can cause the front wheel to lift.

HOLD HAND GRIPS CORRECTLY
Youngsters should be shown how to stand correctly and handlebars should be set at the recommended height. Hands should be in the centre of each grip. Too far out and they will slip off. Too far in and you have less control. Be sure to replace worn grips.

CHECK THE SURFACE
Scooters work best on flat surfaces so keep an eye change in surface - for instance from concrete on to dirt - the wheels may lock and the child will topple off.

GET THE RIGHT KIT
The school run can be full of potential obstacles - from pedestrians and cars to dogs and curbs. It is worth investing in such safety kit as helmets, knee pads and gloves to add a bit more protection.



Benefits of Scooting



Similar schemes run by other Local Authorities have shown that scooting can contribute to reducing traffic around school, thus reducing congestion and increasing safety around the school. It also provides a healthier and more sustainable way for



Essential life skills

Scooting is the first step towards independent travel! These skills will be essential when those children start cycling or walking by themselves.

Scooter training reinforces safety messages taught through Bikeability and Child pedestrian training.



- Since October 2010, the scheme has grown. We have been able to train hundreds of children in various schools
- We have developed a pilot scheme to train nursery aged children. The goal is to train nursery staff so they can deliver the training.



We are a **Scootability** school

GOLDEN RULES

- Never scoot on the road
- Watch out for driveways
- Stop at kerbs
- No scooting down a steep hill
- Always scoot with an adult



Resources



Posters

Certificates

Badges

Plans for more

We were donated micro scooters to loan to children and for the trainers to demonstrate.

