

# **Key Stage 1 / Key Stage 2 Summer Assembly**

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## **Playing Out Safely**

*Year group: Foundation / Key Stage One / Key Stage Two*

*Resources: woolly hat, gloves, scarf, umbrella etc.*

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## **Assembly plan**

### **Aim**

To raise awareness amongst children of the importance of 'playing out safely'

### **Introduction**

What kind of weather are we having at the moment?

Children discuss the weather. If appropriate, props such as hat, gloves, scarf and umbrellas could be used to ascertain that these are not needed now.

Is it light or dark when you go home from school now?

(Talk about clocks changing to make evenings lighter if appropriate.)

One of the lovely things about the warmer weather and the lighter evenings is playing out with our friends after school and at the weekends and during the school holidays.

Who likes playing out? Why? (to be with friends, more fun than watching TV, you can play football etc.)

Where do you like to play? (In your garden, in your friend's garden.)

Some people don't have gardens so where else might you play?

(Children name local play areas and parks.)

Who do you enjoy playing with? (Children suggest names of friends/ family.)

Playing out can be really good fun. We get to spend time with our friends and family, enjoy the nice weather and also get some exercise, which helps to keep our bodies fit and healthy.

But - there are things that we need to be careful about when we are playing out: we need to play safe games where nobody gets hurt; we must share games so that nobody is left out; we must take care not to talk to or go off with strangers; we need to think about behaving safely when on or around roads.

Today in our assembly I'm going to tell you a story about two boys called Joe and Saj. Just like you, Joe and Saj really enjoyed playing out together when the weather was nice.

## Main presentation

Joe was excited, it was the first day of the school holidays and, to make things even better, he could see bright sunshine beaming through his bedroom curtains. He clambered out of bed and drew back the curtains. Above him the sky was bright blue and the sun was shining.

Joe ran downstairs for breakfast.

'Morning sleepy head,' smiled his mum who was busy feeding his baby sister, Lucy. Lucy had globs of soggy cereal all round her mouth and was gurgling happily.

'So,' said mum. 'What do you fancy doing today?'

'Would it be alright if I went to play with Saj?' asked Joe.

'Hmmm,' said mum, 'I've got to nip to the supermarket this morning and I'd really like you to come and give me a hand, but you can go after lunch if you'd like.'

'Ace!' squealed Joe.

That afternoon, Joe got ready to go to Saj's. Saj lived just across the estate, you could see his house from the bottom of Joe's driveway. There was only one road to cross, which was usually very quiet during the day. Ever since the Road Safety lady had come into Joe's school earlier that year, Joe had been allowed to walk to Saj's on his own. His mum always came to the bottom of their driveway to watch him cross the road and make the short trip down the street. Once somebody at Saj's opened the door to let him in, Joe gave his mum a thumbs-up sign, and his mum disappeared back into the house.

Saj and Joe had a great afternoon messing about in Saj's back garden. They climbed the old apple tree and swung off the lower branches, dug for treasure, helped by Tuggy, Saj's pet dog, and had a game of 'beat the goalie'. After a while though, the boys started to get bored.

'What do you want to do now?' asked Saj.

'Dunno,' replied Joe, 'I'm a bit bored.'

Just then Amy, Saj's teenage sister stepped out of the front door and walked down the driveway.

'Lets follow her,' whispered Saj.

'Umm, well, I'm not sure,' stuttered Joe, 'I mean, we're not sure where she's going are we?'

'Come on!' said Saj, 'We could spy on her, it'll be great!'

'Well, Mum says I'm not allowed to go anywhere on the estate, except your house, unless I'm with a grown up,' mumbled Joe.

'Don't be such a chicken!' Saj laughed. 'Anyway, I'm going, so if you don't, you'll have to go home and play *boring* baby games with Lucy all afternoon.'

A mean look passed across Saj's face, 'Maybe you're a just a big baby yourself! Urrgh, I don't wanna hang around with babies. Go home!'

Saj started pulling faces and making "gaa gaa, boo hoo" baby-noises.

'I'm NOT a baby!' said Joe. 'Of course I'll come.' Both boys slipped down the driveway just in time to see Amy disappear round the corner onto Dobson Avenue.

The boys ran along the pavement, darting behind parked cars whenever they thought they were in danger of being spotted by any neighbours. Soon Joe had forgotten all about breaking his mum's rules and was really starting to enjoy himself. At the corner of Dobson Avenue they watched Amy turn right onto the main road and to the boys' disappointment they saw her heading to the bus shelter and sit down.

'What are we going to do now?' said Joe. 'We can't follow her onto the bus, we haven't got enough money for the fare, and anyway, she'll see us.'

'I know,' grumbled Saj, 'But we can't just go back now, it would ruin our adventure.'

Joe stared at the newsagents across the road. Determined not to be accused of being a baby again, he came up with a plan.

'Let's cross over and get some sweets and a drink from the shop. Then we could go to the park and mess about on the swings.'

'Cool,' said Saj, 'That's a great idea.'

A little way down the road was a pedestrian crossing, but to reach it would mean walking past Amy at the bus stop. The boys couldn't risk being seen, as she'd be sure to ruin their fun.

'Come on,' said Joe, 'We'll cross here. These parked cars will hide us from Amy - she'll never spot us.'

The boys were getting really excited now. Thoughts of fizzy drinks and chewy sweets filled their minds. They didn't think at all about the danger they were putting themselves in.

Just at that moment, a bus pulled towards the bus stop. It wasn't the bus that Amy wanted to catch, but it caused the traffic to slow a little.

'Now's our chance!' yelled Saj over the roar of the bus engine. 'I'll race you.'

One, two, three, *GO!* he shouted, giving Joe a good shove in the back.

Laughing, the boys darted into the road.

Mr Thompson steered his car slowly round the parked bus. It was a hot day, 'Thank goodness this new car's got air conditioning,' he thought to himself. He never saw the two small boys hiding behind the cars parked at the edge of the road. He didn't see them at all until, suddenly, they shot out into the road right in front of him. He braked sharply to avoid them, swerved violently, and skidded into the row of parked cars. The car behind Mr Thompson's was going slowly, but couldn't stop in time and ran into the back of Mr Thompson.

Although both boys had narrowly missed being hit by the car, Joe, frightened by what he saw happening, lost his footing and fell up the kerb, twisting his ankle badly. He looked down at his arm and saw that it was grazed and bleeding. Saj had turned an awful shade of white.

After that, everything happened very quickly. Saj and Joe's mums both arrived, as did the Police and an ambulance. Luckily, because the drivers had been going so slowly to get around the bus, nobody had been badly injured and the ambulance wasn't needed, but the road had to be closed off as the Police cleared up the broken glass and damaged cars. As they gazed around them, Joe and Saj realised what chaos they'd caused and how near they'd come to getting very badly hurt. Both boys started to cry.

That night, Joe looked down at his ankle, which was heavily bandaged. It would have to stay that way for at least another two weeks - the rest of the school holidays.

The boys' parents hadn't shouted at them, everybody had been too shocked by what had happened and were just relieved that nobody had been seriously injured or had to spend time in hospital.

However, once the road had been made safe and their injuries checked, Saj and Joe had had a long chat with the Police and their parents. They'd talked all about something called 'consequences', and about all the other people that had been affected by what they'd done. Both boys had promised faithfully never to go off like that again and, from one look at their faces, their parents knew they could believe them. Saj and Joe had learnt an important lesson, but they'd learnt it the hard way.

## Reflection

Have you ever been tempted to sneak off on 'an adventure' without telling anyone?

We can still be adventurous but keep safe.

Why is it dangerous to cross from behind parked cars?

Do you know what consequences are?

Who do you think was affected by Saj and Joe's behaviour?

What lesson did Saj and Joe learn?