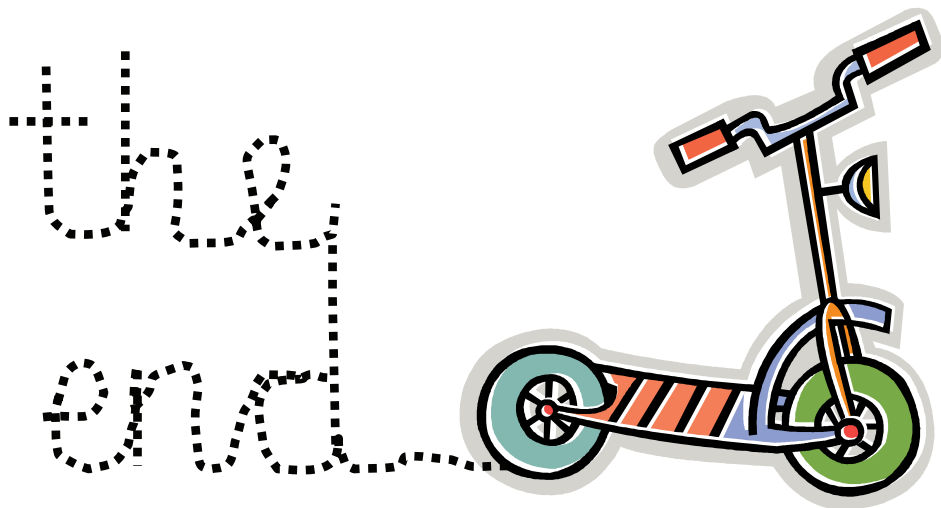


"Well I think we have had a busy day" said Dad. "You were very sensible riding home from the park, your scooter is working well and I think we might just fill in the form for you to take back to school tomorrow saying you can ride your scooter to school, although Mum will still walk with you until you are a little older".

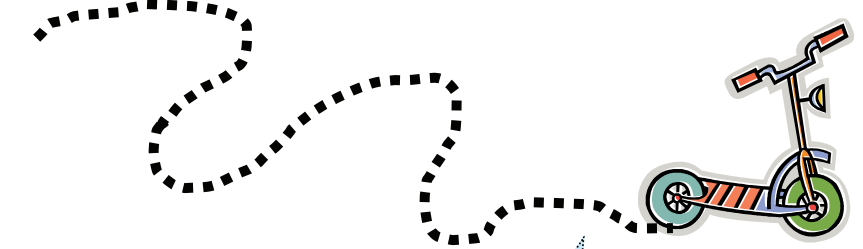
Joseph was so excited, he gave his Dad a big hug and ran in to tell Mum.

"There is still a lot to learn" said Mum, "but we will do that every day on the way to school. In the meantime there is Mrs Hedges' scooter safety course to do before the school allows you to ride - and a bath and bed waiting for you now, so off you go".



So

You want to ride your scooter to school



That would be quite a good thing to do if you have a scooter and the school lets you, but let's have a look at what taking your scooter to school would mean.



Dad told Joseph to always be careful of crossing the road between parked cars and to only do it when he was with Mum or Dad. Luckily he didn't need to cross the road between parked cars on the way to school.

After they had been to the park they walked home again with Joseph riding his scooter. On the way home Joseph was very careful and sensible and Mum and Dad were very pleased with him.



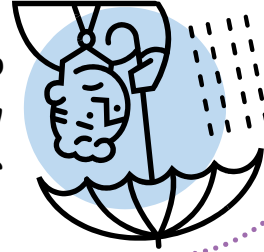
While they were having tea, Dad said "What would you check on your scooter Joseph, to make sure it is OK?" Joseph wasn't sure, so after tea Dad and Joseph went out to the shed and looked at his scooter. It was a shiny silver one with little black wheels.

"Do the wheels spin nice and easy?" asked Dad, "Do they wobble from side to side and does the brake stop the wheels going round?"



Joseph checked. Yes the wheels spun around OK and they didn't wobble from side to side. Dad said that was good as it meant the scooter's wheels were working all right. The brake stopped the wheels going round too, so Dad said Joseph should use that and not his shoes when he wanted to stop.

Joseph was a long way back from Mum. He was tired, his feet ached and it was very cold and rainy.



"Why can't we come to school by car every day?"

he moaned out loud.

"It's all right for you, you're

pushing Sarah in the buggy, and she's nice and warm, but my feet

ache and I am cold and the journey is too long and".....he took a deep

breath....."why can't we come by car every day? It's quicker and warmer".

Mum just kept on getting further and further away, but she stopped, turned around and said,

"You know your dad has the car today. It's his turn to take the

men to work, you know they take turns. Today is Dad's turn. Now

please Joseph just hurry up, the exercise is good for you and it is

nearly time for school to start".



Sure enough, they were nearly at the school. Dad told Joseph that he thought he needed to learn some more about his scooter and how to ride it properly before taking it to school, but they would practise some more on the way home. Before they went home, they would go to the park. To get to the park, Joseph, his Mum, Dad and Sarah had to cross a road where lots and lots of cars were parked. Joseph looked, but there was no zebra or pelican crossing to help.



"What do we do now Mum?" asked Joseph. "I can't even see the road, let alone see if any traffic is coming".

Mum told Joseph to get off his scooter and make sure he didn't scratch any cars because they were going to have to squeeze between two of them to get across the road.



Dad went first. He was holding Sarah, and he made sure he stayed in between the cars and just moved his head out enough to see if anything was coming. He looked up and down the road and there was nothing coming, so they all walked across the road, with Joseph pushing his scooter.

That evening when Dad got home from work, Joseph was still talking about how cold and tired he was on the way to school in the morning and how Mum said exercise was good for you. He asked his dad what was exercise and why was it good for you.

Dad explained about eating properly, and getting exercise and fresh air to help keep his body nice and healthy, and then they all sat down for tea.

Suddenly Joseph remembered he had a letter in his school bag that he was supposed to give to Mum and Dad. Mum read the letter out loud.

Dear Parents,

As we now have year 6 pupils bringing their bikes to school, we have decided to allow pupils in years 3-5 to bring their scooters to school also.

The rules will be:

Scooters must be in good working order. Please make sure wheels are not wobbly and that the brake works, and your child's name is on the scooter.

When pupils come in to the school grounds, they must never ride their scooters; only walk beside them, pushing them sensibly.

Riders must carefully put their scooters in the cycle sheds straight away, not take them into the playground.

Pupils will be expected to join Mrs Hedges for a scooter safety course before getting permission to bring their scooter to school.

Joseph was beginning to understand. "Is it the same rules for being on a scooter as it is for walking?"

"Yes" said Mum, "there is not much difference. You still have to be very careful, perhaps even more so if you let yourself ride too fast.

When you cross the road you must cross somewhere that should be safer like a Pelican or Zebra Crossing or a lollipop person. You could even use a footbridge or sub-

way if you see one. It's the same with your scooter. You still use these crossings if you see them, but you push your scooter beside you, and if you can't find any of these safer places to cross..."

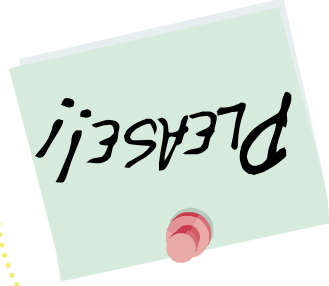
Joseph jumped in quickly, "I know, you Stop, Look, Listen and Think".

Mum laughed, "Yes Joseph, always think!" Mum went on, "You wouldn't walk in the road, and that is the same with your scooter too. You stay on the pavement, away from the kerb, and just like you wouldn't run along the pavement when people are around, you don't ride your scooter fast near people. Now look, there is your school."



Joseph was very excited.

"Can I take my scooter to school Mum...please...Dad? Can I? Pleasease."



Mum and Dad looked at each other, like mums and dads do when they don't know what to say. It was hard to think with Joseph saying "Please" so many times.

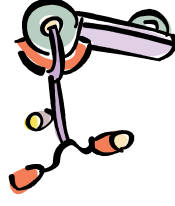
Eventually Dad said

"Just why do you want to take your scooter to school Joseph? The letter says you won't be able to play with it in school".



"Because it's a long way to school and when you have the car it is always cold and wet and my feet get tired and if I ride my scooter the journey will be quicker".

"But you will still have to wait for Mum" replied Dad. "She will still have to go to school with you for a little while until she knows that you are safe on your scooter and not silly, and there is a road to cross which is quite busy, so I don't think your journey will be much quicker".



Joseph wanted to know if he could have gone into the road to get around the people, but Dad got a little cross with him.



"Never, ever ride your scooter in the road or when you cross the road" he said "and remember how you were riding too close to the kerb which is dangerous as you now know. If you want to ride your scooter to school, you have to be more sensible than you have been today and start to think more about what could happen if you are being silly".



By this time they were at the road that they needed to cross. There was a zebra crossing down the road a little, but Joseph wanted to cross sooner.

"There is nothing coming" he said, "quick, let's go now."

This time Mum was cross.

"You know we never cross here" she said, "we go to the crossing where it is safer because we wait for the traffic to stop".



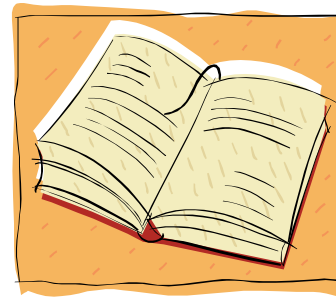
"But it will be more fun" said Joseph, "I can zig zag around all the people walking, or shout for them to get out of my way, bunny hop off the kerb, try and keep up with cyclists, and then....." Dad stopped him quick. "That is exactly what we don't want from you young man. Now I think you have a reading book to finish while Mum and I have a talk about this."



Joseph went upstairs to read his book. He didn't say any more as he kind of thought he had said the wrong thing and if he said any more he would lose the chance of riding his scooter to school. Nothing was said for the rest of the evening, but before he went to bed he could wait no longer,

"Can I ride my scooter to school please?" Joseph pleaded with his parents.

Dad said he could, but at the weekend, Mum and Dad, with Sarah, would walk the journey to school whilst Joseph rode his scooter, so Dad could see how he would get on.



At first Joseph was riding too fast - not very fast, but still too fast. He

passed a couple of people that were standing having a chat, but didn't see their dog. This was a dog that did not like scooters! The dog pulled on his lead and barked so loud that Joseph's scooter fell off the

kerb and landed in the road.



Joseph cut his knee and was quite upset, his knee was sore, but a car was coming and had to stop quickly which did frighten Joseph.

"That is one reason to go

slower" said Dad, "You just never know what is going to happen. Now, when you see a group of people, whether

walking or standing still, slow

down and go around them

gently - and don't ride your

scooter so close to the kerb.

Now come on we've got to cross the road in a minute".



It seemed like an age waiting for the weekend, but on the Saturday, it rained so hard they couldn't go. Joseph was upset and told his dad he would be OK in his coat with a hood, as he would stay dry in that. Dad sat Joseph down and said "Think about it, when you are walking with your hood up and your friend calls you from the other side of the road, and you turn your head to see him, what happens?"

Joseph didn't understand what his dad meant.

"Does your hood stay still when your head turns, so you only see the inside of your hood?" It did. "You have to be a little more careful when you are riding a scooter, you are going a little bit faster than walking, and we need to get you a coat with a hood that is not so big, so when something happens near you, you can see and stop in time. Let's see what the weather is like tomorrow."

Sunday the weather was dry, so the whole family went out with Joseph scooting off ahead of Mum, Dad and Sarah.

