

Child Safety Education in Schools: Basis for Community Involvement in Safety Management in Nigeria.

By

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**Being a Paper Presented at the 2007 Annual Corps Marshal Conference
and the 19th Anniversary Celebration of the Federal Road Safety Commission from
19 – 22 February, 2007 at Abeokuta, Ogun State.**

OUTLINE

- Who is a Child?
- Safety- What does it mean?
- What is Child Safety Education?
- Major Approaches to adopt
- Strategies for the Approaches
- Funding
- Conclusion

Who is a child?

- Someone below the age of 18
- Early childhood is from age 0 – 5
- Age 6 – 18 are school children from Primary to Senior Secondary (i.e. Basic and Post Basic levels)
- To children aged 0- 5, safety is in the hands of adults and care-givers.
- For the purpose of Child Safety Education, therefore, the scope is delimited to school children aged 6 - 18

SAFETY – What does it mean?

- The dictionary defines safety as a state of being protected, uninjured, out of danger, secured, not involving risk
- All safety directed to the child is to keep him/her alive and secured.
- Examples, we ensure for the child
 - safety from harm
 - safety from abuse e.g. rape
 - safety from disease
 - safety from malnutrition
 - safety from hazardous activities, like hawking, street trading, bus conducting, street begging etc.
 - safety from substance abuse
 - safety from road accidents

What is Child Safety education?

- This refers to an orderly, sequential process of change in which a child learns about how to survive, protect himself/herself against all forms of danger.
- This would necessarily involve education in many emerging areas such as, Drug Abuse, Environment, Human rights, Gender, Family Life/HIV/AIDS, Road Safety all targeted to protect the child from harm.

MAJOR APPROACHES TO ADOPT

• Curricular Approach

- Here the concept, themes and messages of Child Safety Education are structured and infused into carrier subjects (e.g. English Studies, Social Studies, Cultural and Creative Arts, Physical and Health Education) are taught in schools.
- It cannot be a 'Stand alone subject because the Curriculum is already overloaded.

• Co-curricular Approach

- This will involve the Formation of Safety Clubs in schools.
- Peer educators would be needed to educate their peers and the community members.

STRATEGIES FOR THE APPROACHES

1 **Planning Meeting:**

- Safety education is multi-sectoral involving Road Safety officials, Agencies that manage disasters e.g. NEMA, Curriculum experts, teachers and community leaders.
- These people should come together for a planning meeting aimed at articulating the concepts, contents and objectives of Child Safety Education.

2 **Curriculum Development Workshop:**

- This would involve curriculum development activities as Content Selection, Teacher and Students Activities, Evaluation Procedures etc.

3 Infusion Workshop:

- Here, the developed Child Safety Curriculum would be infused into the curricula of the Carrier subjects.
- The various points of infusion are identified.

4 Development of Teachers' Manual and other Instructional Materials.

- These materials such as posters, handbills are necessary for orientation and students' club and community activities.

5 Printing and Distribution of Materials.

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6 Teacher Orientation and Peer Educators' Training.

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FUNDING:

- Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC).
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).
- Funding Agencies like UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, UNFPA.
- The Community e.g.P.T.A, Churches/ Mosques etc.
- NERDC to provide proposals and technical support.

CONCLUSION:

Child Safety education is inevitable because:

- The convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that children have a right to live and develop to their full capacity.
- A programme in child safety should be used as an entry point for other developmental activities which will benefit the entire community, thereby encouraging public- private partnership in education.
- It will ensure the survival of many more children as they are prepared early enough for safety issues.

Thank you.