



## Driving Skills – Theme 3: Speed matters

## Factsheet 3b

### Assessing Risk - an example

You have been asked to give a lift to your 4-year old brother in your car. You do not have a special child restraint - only the seatbelts. You need to decide if it is safe to take him in the car or not.

#### STEP 1 Look for potential hazards

In this case, the hazard can be the lack of appropriate child restraint.

#### STEP 2 Decide who could be harmed and how (you and/or others)

Your brother could be injured in the event of a crash.

You could be injured if your unrestrained brother is thrown about in the car from the force of a crash.

Other road users could be harmed, if you lose control of the car in an effort to protect your brother.

#### STEP 3 Evaluate the risks to yourself and others.

Decide if each risk is high or low. Deal with high risks as a priority.

The risk of a crash is not very high if you drive carefully but there can be circumstances that lead to a crash totally out of your control.

The consequences can be very high. Overall, you decide it is a high risk.

#### STEP 4 Examine existing precautions set and other measures already taken. Decide whether they are adequate or more needs to be done.

Adult size seatbelts are already in place. They will be, however, too big for your brother - he could slide out of them or he could be injured by the seatbelts themselves if not properly fitted.

Not adequate. You need to get a proper restraint for your brother or find other means of transport.

#### STEP 5 Write down a list of what needs to be done, when and by whom. This is your Action Plan. You need to review your Action Plan every now and then and to update it.

Ask friends if they have a suitable restraint you can borrow.

Look into buying one and keep it in your car (cost?)

Examine alternative means of transport:

- hire a cab (check cost)
- ask a lift from somebody who has a suitable restraint (who?)
- bus (check routes/time needed/allow extra time?)