

Activity #2

Retro-Reflective Radiance

Purpose:

This demonstration allows children to see the difference between fluorescent material and retro-reflective material.

Materials:

- Retro-reflective vest and/or tape
- Fluorescent clothing and/or stickers
- Flashlight

Method:

- Discuss with students the dangers associated with riding their bikes at night.
- If students must ride at night, ask the students if fluorescent clothing alone should be worn?
- Explain the difference between fluorescent and retro-reflective material.
(retro-reflective material is made of tiny prisms which reflect light directly back at the source)
- Turn off the lights and shine a flashlight on both fluorescent and retro-reflective samples.
- Check the back of students' bicycle helmets for imitation or true retro-reflective tape. If students' helmets are not at school have them check the helmets at home.
- Discuss with students the benefits of wearing retro-reflective material when riding at night.
(more visible to other vehicles on the road)