

OBJECTIVE

Learn about the various types of farm machinery and equipment that are commonly used on a farm and how the farmer must be responsible and safe when using tractors.

PROPS

1. On six blank pieces of paper write the following **S.T.O.P.I.T.** – using one letter per page.
2. A hi vis vest.
3. Stuffed toys.
4. A hand held mirror.

**GETTING STARTED****▶ 1. The Seasons:**

Write the four seasons on the blackboard.

Spring ● Summer ● Autumn ● Winter.

Now ask the children to mention key farm activities that take place in each season:

eg. **Spring:** lambing, calving, sowing crops, ploughing the soil ● **Summer:** hay making, baling, etc. ● **Autumn:** Harvest ● **Winter:** slurry spreading (Jan/Feb), ploughing, etc.

Now ask the children to mention key farm machinery used during each season.

**▶ 2. Tractor Driving:**

It's time for some tractor work!

Choose one child to play the role of the farmer and ask them to bring their chair to the top of the class. Now ask the class to list out the various safety checks the 'farmer' must do before they start their day's work.



Write the answers on the board!

Now ask the 'farmer' to put on their hi vis vest and to pretend to sit into the tractor – what else must they put on at this point – **their seat belt!** Remind the children why seat belts are so important.

▶ 3. STOPIT

Now ask 6 volunteers to come to the top of the class. Explain that it is the end of the working day and the 'farmer' is returning to the farm to park their tractor for the night. But is it important that the tractor is parked safely and securely – this is where **S.T.O.P.I.T.** comes into play.

Hand each of the 6 volunteers a '**S.T.O.P.I.T.**' letter with the class reminding you of what each letter stands for. Make sure they stand in the correct order and each volunteer is to call out what their letter stands for. The class can help!

S... Stop the tractor in a Safe place. Farmers should park the Tractor facing forward. This means they don't have to reverse it out when using it again.

T... Take up the hand break and prevent the tractor from rolling.

O... Take the tractor Out of gear and feet Off the pedals

P... Put the bucket or fork down.

I... Turn off the Ignition

T... Take out the keys. Leaving keys in the tractor means the farmers is at risk of it being stolen or driven by someone with no permission to do so.

4. Blindspots:

Ask one child to come to the top of the class, they are our tractor driver. Ask them to stand tall and to look straight ahead. At their feet place three soft toys. Ask the class if they can see the toys.

Now ask the child who is standing tall if they can see the toys at their feet? They will not be able to see them even though they are closest to them.

Now give a soft toy to three children sitting down in front and ask again if our tractor driver can see toys while still looking ahead.

The class will realise that the toys can be seen when they are further away from the driver, hence with tractor blindspots the further away you are the more likely the farmer can see you when in their tractor.

Now ask our 'tractor driver' to stand with their back to the class give them the mirror. Without moving the mirror can they describe what they can see behind them? They cannot move the mirror they must hold it fixed as how the wing mirror on a tractor would be.



Do they understand how limited their vision behind is?

**How about rewarding the class with some fun activities,
like maybe drawing their own farmyard scene!
Showing some of the safety tips they have learnt.**