Driven to distraction

By Diana Cormack

“When are we going to be there?” “How much longer is it?” “Are we nearer home or nearer there?” are just some of the questions children ask when they have had enough of a long car journey. The toys have been abandoned, books read, Gameboy’s over and the tapes are played out. Now is the time (if they refuse to try going to sleep) to introduce some car games. But a word of warning is necessary here. Talk about the rules before starting to play the game and have a trial run first, to avoid World War III breaking out on your particular stretch of motorway.

A – Z Game

Using the headings of Girl’s Name, Boy’s Name, Animal, Plant. Place each person in turn says the name of a girl which begins with “A”, then each person in turn says the name of a boy which begins with “A”, followed by an animal name, next a plant name and finally a place name. Work your way through the alphabet without repeating a or copying a name. Penalty points are given if you repeat or fail to think of a name, so the winner is the person with the smallest number of points.

Plates

Another game can be played using the number plates of passing cars. Using the three letters next to each other, try to make up a short saying with them. e.g. BMH could be “Birmingham”. Of course, you could even combine the alphabet or “blemish” or even “big-mouth”!

Driven by DEC

There are plenty of songs to sing to pass the time, but things can be more interesting if someone sings a song then stops on a particular word before they get to the end of the song. The next person has to then sing a song which begins with the last letter of the last word of the previous song. So “Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail ....” can be followed by “London’s burning, London’s burning”.

Snack in the Middle

Stacked in a traffic jam or waiting at traffic lights, you can make use of the time factor. Everyone tries to guess how long it will be before the car in front moves or the lights change. You can shout “Change!” once, just before the car in front moves or the lights change to amber. The winner of each round is the last person to call before the change happens, so it’s all a matter of timing.

Have a great time whenever you go during the summer holidays. Try not to moan too much if the journey gets boring. Remember, you could be sitting in school instead!

City Walk

By Charlotte Waring, aged 9, of Durham Road, N2.

The starting point of this walk was the Monument to the Great Fire of London in 1666, from where we headed north through the financial heart of the city and Leadenhall Market, up to the churches around the north corner, and then eastwards south to the Tower of London. We saw some interesting buildings on the walk including, The Bank of England, The Natwest Tower, the first coffee shop in London, the Tower of London and Tower Bridge.

The Ladybird

Ladybird, Ladybird The sun has come up And the moon has gone down, You’re creepy and crawly. You’re red with black spots And you have six legs, But Ladybird, Ladybird, The moon has come up, And the sun has gone down, So Ladybird, Lay on me. Goodnight Ladybird!

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

Spiders

Spiders I hate them They’re so hairy You’re creepy and crawly, They really, really think they’re scary They have eight legs

Worms

Worms wriggle in the mud around they go tug, tug, tug around in the mud they go.

by Francesca Tieman, aged 9, of Old Farm Road, N2.

In the summertime

Summer is colourful, right from the start, Flowers erupt and explode in bloom, Getting rid of that dullest gloom, Fun fairs, carnivals, holidays as well, Even Victor Meldrew is feeling quite swell.

Donkey rides, golfing, swimming and fun, I love summer, God bless the sun.

Dancing, cheering, laughing and smiles, Walks in the countryside which go on for miles, Summer shade, sunshine all the same.

Ice cream parlours, and music in the streets, Ice cream parlours and music in the streets.

by Craig Johnson, aged 15, Sedgemere Avenue, N2.

poetry corner

The Moon Light

Moon Light

Moon light, shine upon us every night,
Moon light, shine upon us every night

So we could glow as you every beautiful night,
Moon light, you shine as white as snow every beautiful night,
It would be a pleasure of yours

by Ahmed Bandey, aged 9, of Beresford Road, N2.

Guinea Pigs

Guinea Pigs squeak, stretch and bite
didn’t you know they like the light

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

Spiders

Spiders I hate them They’re so hairy

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

The Ladybird

Ladybird, Ladybird The sun has come up And the moon has gone down, You’re creepy and crawly. You’re red with black spots And you have six legs, But Ladybird, Ladybird, The moon has come up, And the sun has gone down, So Ladybird, Lay on me. Goodnight Ladybird!

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

Spiders

Spiders I hate them They’re so hairy

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

The Ladybird

Ladybird, Ladybird The sun has come up And the moon has gone down, You’re creepy and crawly. You’re red with black spots And you have six legs, But Ladybird, Ladybird, The moon has come up, And the sun has gone down, So Ladybird, Lay on me. Goodnight Ladybird!

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

Spiders

Spiders I hate them They’re so hairy

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

The Ladybird

Ladybird, Ladybird The sun has come up And the moon has gone down, You’re creepy and crawly. You’re red with black spots And you have six legs, But Ladybird, Ladybird, The moon has come up, And the sun has gone down, So Ladybird, Lay on me. Goodnight Ladybird!

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

Spiders

Spiders I hate them They’re so hairy

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.

The Ladybird

Ladybird, Ladybird The sun has come up And the moon has gone down, You’re creepy and crawly. You’re red with black spots And you have six legs, But Ladybird, Ladybird, The moon has come up, And the sun has gone down, So Ladybird, Lay on me. Goodnight Ladybird!

by Sasha Dalmonengo and Cassey Sullivan, aged 9.