

# Gazette



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## Safe Journeys Safe Communities

The **Safe Journeys Safe Communities** project emerged from early childhood educators working with Aboriginal children, families and communities to address local road safety needs and concerns.

Through **Safe Journeys Safe Communities**, Kids and Traffic helped educators develop community specific resources and strategies. The story of each service and community involved is shared on our Kids and Traffic website.

Relationships between educators, families and their local communities are at the heart of each story. This is an essential part of effective community-focused road safety education.

Each **Safe Journeys Safe Communities** online story includes creative strategies and resources to inspire or complement road safety education in other local communities.

### In this Gazette...

- We show how **Safe Journeys Safe Communities** online stories have inspired other children's services to develop their own ideas to help keep young children safe as pedestrians, passengers and at play.
- We explore ways in which educators can use **Safe Journeys Safe Communities** online stories to engage families in exploring the Kids and Traffic Key Road Safety Messages together.

Early childhood educators are ideally placed to promote safe travel practices within local communities by encouraging all the adults in children's lives to use consistent road safety messages.

- We enclose the Kids and Traffic collaborative story book 'Safe Journeys with Yuluwirri Kids' and a **Safe Journeys Safe Communities** poster. Contact us for more information about additional copies.

### A message from Professor S. Bruce Dowton, Vice Chancellor, Macquarie University...

"Macquarie University is dedicated to service and engagement, and the 'Safe Journeys with Yuluwirri Kids' story book —and the **Safe Journeys Safe Communities** project from which it grew—are outstanding examples of these values. The ongoing community engagement and respectful, genuine relationships forged by the staff of the Kids and Traffic program help communities address road safety concerns and save young lives across Australia.

This latest Kids and Traffic collaborative story book honours and shares a sense of place, culture, language, wellbeing and belonging and I warmly commend it to you."



View the online stories via this link on the Kids and Traffic homepage.

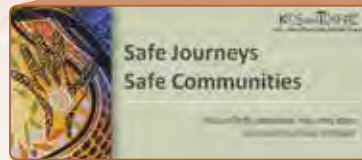


Image by Chris Stacey

### Yuluwirri Kids Preschool and Long Day Care Centre, Coonabarabran ...

*Kids and Traffic* partnered with children and families from this Warrumbungle Shire Council children's service and the wider Aboriginal community to create 'Safe Journeys with Yuluwirri Kids'. This story book features safe journeys to preschool and other family outings. It includes teaching and learning ideas to promote conversations and further explore the Key Road Safety Messages with the children and families at your service.

*Kids and Traffic* trialled the book across the state and many valuable partnerships were formed in Coonabarabran and other communities. Educators told us that their involvement in the development process enhanced their cultural competence when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and community members (EYLF, 2010). These enhanced relationships assisted services to deliver road safety education programs relevant to the needs of children, their families and their local communities.

Listen to audio on the *Kids and Traffic* website to hear Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Maureen Sulter, speaking her Gamilaraay language from 'Safe Journeys with Yuluwirri Kids'.

**"I feel with Yuluwirri Preschool and with this book that we can pass our cultures on, pass our language on, there for all Australians. And I'm very proud of that part."** - Aunty Maureen Sulter

To strengthen your road safety education program, we encourage you to recognise the uniqueness of your local community. Use the enclosed *Kids and Traffic* **'Safe Journeys Safe Communities road safety checklist'** to help you find out more about the road safety issues in your community and develop strategies to keep children and their families safer. This checklist supports the **National Quality Standard** and many of the principles, practices and outcomes of the EYLF.



Jo Isedale (Educator), Aunty Maureen Sulter (Aboriginal Elder), Linda Harrison (*Kids and Traffic*), Linda Miller (Centre Director) and Rob Dean (Radio Station Engineer).

### Safe Journeys Safe Communities online stories - inspiring children's services Kubby House Child Care Centre, Cobar ...

After hosting a *Kids and Traffic* professional development workshop, Ashley from Kubby House spoke with *Kids and Traffic* about **Safe Journeys Safe Communities**. She encouraged others from her service including educator Natasha to access the online stories and resources to inspire their own community-specific road safety education program. Ashley and Natasha were particularly interested in the **Goodstart Early Learning, Blue Haven** story which raises concerns about arrivals and departures.



Educators and *Kids and Traffic* brainstormed what could be done to facilitate safer arrivals and departures for families. They quickly saw the need to focus on the pedestrian safety message, **'Hold my hand'**. Just like Director Vicki from **Goodstart, Blue Haven**, Ashley and Natasha displayed the useful *Kids and Traffic* **'Hold my hand/Please shut the gate'** sign on their entry gate for all families to see.

Educators decided to further engage the children and families by making a **'Hold my hand'** book using photos taken at arrival and departure times. They also created a foyer display to document the children's pedestrian safety experiences and distribute road safety information.

Why not take photos of the adults and children holding hands as they arrive or leave your service? Encourage this safe travel practice by sharing the *Kids and Traffic* Key Pedestrian Safety Message **'Always hold a grown-up's hand'**. Check out the **Goodstart, Blue Haven** online story for more ideas to create your own **'Hold my hand'** book.



Contact us if you would like to host a free *Kids and Traffic* workshop.



Does your service need a **'Hold my hand/Please shut the gate'** sign? Contact *Kids and Traffic* for a free resource order form.



## Handprints Early Learning Centre, St Ives ...

Educators at Handprints Early Learning shared concerns similar to those at **Goodstart, Blue Haven**, about the safety of children in their carpark. Director Julia and *Kids and Traffic* discussed ways of making families more safety conscious at arrival and departure times. A **Driveway Safety Display** was also organised.

As families arrived on the day of the display, educators encouraged them to join in some planned road safety experiences with the children. This gave educators the opportunity to discuss their car park concerns with families.



Contact us to find out about holding a *Kids and Traffic* Driveway Safety Display at your service.



A safe car travel poster near the daily sign in sheet

After sign-in, parents, grandparents and other carers participated in the *Kids and Traffic* **Driveway Safety Display**. Many were shocked that they were unable to see most of the toddler-sized figures in any of the car mirrors and were keen to discuss their concerns. By organising the display in the car park, Julia could highlight her concerns with families in a practical way.

Handprints Early Learning was also inspired by the way educators in the **Tregear Presbyterian Preschool** online story explored the Key Road Safety Messages with children by using dramatic play to practise safe travel behaviours ... even very young children were able to explore the messages **'Always hold a grown-up's hand'** and **'Always buckle up safely'**.



Technology can be a great tool to investigate and enrich ideas and discussion around road safety. Educators at Handprints Early Learning used iPads with children to access the safe play video story, **'Five Little Girrawaa'**, featured in the **Gilgandra Preschool** online story. While this rhyme is based on the familiar **'Five Little Monkeys'**, Gilgandra Preschool's version focuses on how important it is to wear a helmet when riding.



This was a new and interesting way to engage children with the Key Safe Play Message, **'Always wear your helmet when riding your bike or wheeled toy'**.

The **Gilgandra Preschool** story inspired educators at Handprints Early Learning by showing them how easy it is to make road safety a part of their everyday programming and planning across many curriculum areas.



**Safe Journeys Safe Communities online stories - inspiring road safety with families ...**



Charlotte and Wesley enjoy bike and scooter riding when they spend time with their Nai Nai (Grandmother). They viewed the 'Five Little Girrawaa' video story at home together with Nai Nai. They talked about the *Kids and Traffic* Key Safe Play Message **'Always wear your helmet when riding your bike or wheeled toy'**. They remembered it when getting ready to go out riding that day.



Nai Nai helps Wesley correctly fit his helmet before he starts riding. Nai Nai walks alongside him always holding onto the bike by its handle as cars could be about.



Share the link to these video stories with children, parents, grandparents and other family members ...



The 'Journey Home from Preschool' e-book from **Tregear Presbyterian Preschool** encourages families to create their own safe journey books.

Reading this e-book inspired Zahra and Zane's family to capture their own safe journeys while travelling through England and Scotland. When they returned they created a photo book together.



Here we go walking holding hands!



Check out this e-book in the **Tregear Preschool online story**

They shared their photo book and talked about their safe journeys with educators and friends at child care. This provided opportunities for children to learn more about Zahra and Zane and their safe travels and for everyone to focus on the Key Pedestrian Safety Message **'Always hold a grown-up's hand'**.



Why not encourage families at your service to create and share stories of their journeys, including their holidays and weekend adventures? This is an ideal way for educators to engage families with the *Kids and Traffic* Key Road Safety Messages.

Contact us if you are interested in hosting a *Kids and Traffic* workshop, 'Travelling Safely with Grandchildren'. This new workshop helps grandparents

- explore why young children are at risk in and around traffic
- find ways to keep their grandchildren safe when out and about together as pedestrians, passengers and at play
- discover fun road safety education games, rhymes and books to share with their grandchildren.

Grandparents can also participate in an interactive **Driveway Safety Display** to highlight the dangers of moving vehicles in and around driveways.

