



**FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

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# Road safety is important to us all!

**A whole of service approach** to road safety unites children, families, educators, management and the wider community around the shared goal of keeping children safe in and around vehicles. It embeds road safety into policies, partnerships with families, pedagogy and curriculum.

Families are children's first and most influential teachers. Working with them is an essential part of an effective road safety education program. Young children are still developing the skills and understandings they need to keep safe so families, educators and other adults in the community play a vital role in their safety.

In this Gazette we look at how some services are implementing a whole of service approach to road safety through excursions, transition to school, community partnerships, enrolment procedures, quality improvement plans and, of course, everyday interactions with children and families.

We've included a new poster and our *Talking Traffic with Kids* Picture Pack for you to share the Key Road Safety Messages with children and families. Check out our online gallery to find more inspiration for road safety picture talks at your service.

At *Kids and Traffic* we are committed to working **Towards Zero** deaths on NSW roads.

**But we need your help!**

Early childhood educators are well placed to make sure families have all the information, inspiration and motivation they need to keep children safe in and around vehicles.

Display this 'Road safety is important to us!' poster to show your commitment to working **Towards Zero**.

Take a look at [towardszero.nsw.gov.au](http://towardszero.nsw.gov.au) and you'll see the great work that *Kids and Traffic* and Yuluwirri Kids Preschool and Long Day Care have been doing to champion road safety in Coonabarabran.





## Excursions - an opportunity to partner with families around road safety

### Angels of the Bay Early Learning Centre, Rosebery

As part of their transition to school program, Angels of the Bay organised a transition to school excursion to a nearby primary school. This provided an opportunity to involve families in the centre's road safety education program and policies.

Leading up to the excursion, educators, children and families talked about how they keep safe on regular journeys. Children and families contributed drawings and photos of themselves walking holding hands. Engaging parents and carers in road safety discussions helped them recognise risks to children and the crucial role they play in keeping children safe.

Parents and grandparents came along on the excursion which helped maintain best practice ratios – one adult to two children. Before the excursion, educators shared information with the adult volunteers about safety expectations and the centre's excursion policy. Educators stressed the importance of adults 'Talking Traffic with Kids' – talking about all the things they do together to keep safe while out walking.

*Kids and Traffic* helped educators develop a big book, 'Our Excursion to Big School,' using Key Road Safety Messages, photos taken during the excursion and children's words and drawings. The book was used to revisit the excursion and continue road safety discussions with children and families. This led to conversations about how children will travel safely to primary school the following year. Educators encouraged families to share their thoughts and concerns about what will change at school drop-off and pick-up times compared to child care. Family feedback helped educators to extend their road safety program for children and to provide relevant and meaningful road safety information to families.



Educators and children researched their excursion to school with online interactive maps.



### Kingstown Preschool

Located in a remote farming town in northern NSW, educators at Kingstown Preschool regularly take children on walking excursions to their local shop, park, fire station and post office box. Walking safely out and about and connecting with members of the local community fosters children's developing sense of agency along with their road safety understandings. Documenting these outings and sharing them with families is a great way to embed road safety into another area of the program.

**We recognise the resilience of children's services in towns such as Kingstown who are experiencing the effects of severe drought. We applaud the educators, children and families in these communities!**



Educators discussing the importance of always holding a grown-up's hand, including in the preschool car park.



## Quality Improvement Plans (QIP) - establishing road safety education goals

### Niagara Park Children's Centre

QIP goals of this Central Coast Council children's centre included increasing knowledge of Key Road Safety Messages by educators, children and families through the centre's curriculum, daily practices and documentation.

*"We aim to implement an ongoing road safety education program that is relevant to the specific road safety issues of each Council centre and community and is meaningful to children and their families".*

To help achieve this goal, strategies included educators attending *Kids and Traffic* professional development workshops, revising and updating their Road Safety Education Policy and partnering with families to support safe travel and the consistent use of Key Road Safety Messages in the centre and at home.

Educators used many intentional teaching opportunities for children's road safety learning including when planning and preparing for their 'outside the gate' walking excursion to the cake shop. They looked at satellite maps, designed safe walking routes together and practised keeping safe through dramatic play.



*Practising holding a grown-up's hand before the excursion to the cake shop.*



Niagara Park's 'outside the gate' excursion program enables children to connect with their local community and helps unite the community around keeping children safe.

Families contribute to the road safety program by sharing stories about how the centre mascot, 'Brown Bear', travels safely with them on weekends. This provides educators with further insight and inspiration for programming and planning and can be used as evidence of how they are meeting their road safety education QIP goals.

*Children exploring safe walking routes for their excursion through small world play.*



*Children give eggs from the centre's hens to the baker so she can make more delicious cakes!*

### To achieve their QIP goals, educators collaborated with families by:

- talking regularly with them about their road safety concerns and issues
- discussing safe arrival and departure procedures during enrolment and throughout the year
- inviting them to contribute to the road safety program, including attending excursions
- providing opportunities for them to have child restraints checked by an RMS Authorised Fitter
- using the *Kids and Traffic* Driveway Safety Display to demonstrate how difficult it is to see children behind vehicles and to highlight the importance of always holding their child's hand.



*Call or email us to find out more about the Kids and Traffic Driveway Safety Display Kit.*

Contact us for support to develop road safety education QIP goals or policies for your children's service.



## What might a whole of service approach look like at your service?

### PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

- Regularly ask about their road safety concerns and issues and address these through meaningful and relevant road safety learning experiences.
- Document these experiences and share with families to highlight the Key Road Safety Messages and actively involve them in their children's road safety learning.
- Engage families in establishing or reviewing your road safety education policies and procedures and regularly share these.

### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Embed road safety into service policies and procedures such as excursions, safe arrivals and departures and transition to school to inform educators, families and the wider community of the road safety practices and behaviours required to keep children safe.
- Establish a Road Safety Education policy that addresses programming, partnerships with families, collaboration with the community and the importance of ongoing road safety professional learning for educators.

### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

- Engage children in learning about how to keep safe without making them responsible for their own safety.
- Utilise cross-curriculum, integrated road safety education that's embedded in daily teaching and learning, routines, transitions and interactions to help children develop their understandings of how to keep safe. Quality early childhood road safety education is hands-on, play-based, child-centred and involves families.
- Plan for continuous road safety education focused on the Key Road Safety Messages and the specific road safety issues affecting children and families in the local community.



Our latest NESA registered workshop, 'DIY Road Safety Education', launched mid-2018, has received great feedback. We love sharing educators' sustainable road safety assemblage artworks created during workshops on Instagram. For inspiration about ways to link road safety to your visual arts program, follow the Instagram link from our *Kids and Traffic* website or search for #diyroadsafetyart via your account.



**Thank you** to all the educators who participated in workshops in 2018 and to the wonderful services who hosted for us. Your support is greatly valued by the *Kids and Traffic* team and by your early childhood colleagues.

We look forward to seeing you at a workshop soon!

## NEW Lotto Game

**Keep a look out** for our **NEW** road safety lotto game! This refreshed *Kids and Traffic* classic will be sent by courier to all NSW children's services on our database. To ensure it arrives safely, please fill out and return the update form included in this mailout so we have the **correct street address** for your service. We hope this great resource will become a favourite all over again!



**Coming Soon!**

