

# Happy kids in cars: activity ideas

Some families use DVD players and mobile devices such as tablets to keep their children entertained during a journey by watching favourite children's programs on DVD or online. Encourage them to interact with this technology –

- using simple search terms, find free tablet apps before you leave, so children can –
  - 'draw', 'make art/art maker'
  - 'create/make picture/puzzles for children to solve'
  - 'make story books', 'create animations', 'make photo stories' using family photos
  - sing along with 'karaoke for kids'
  - 'make an e-book' and 'record audio stories' with you, using drawings/photos of a previous journey for them to view and listen to as they travel.
- suggest they use a tablet to take photos as they travel. Find free 'photo matching' apps to make the photos of their adventures into a matching game.



- make a **'Look who's buckled up safely'** matching book with your children before your trip by collecting photos/images/drawings of adult and child passengers safely buckled up. To turn it into a flip book, cut the photos in half and laminate them if possible.



- punch holes in the photos/images/drawings
- mix up their order
- use thick paper or cardboard as a front and back cover
- punch holes in the covers
- put the photos/images/drawings together with the front and back covers to form a book
- secure the book through the holes using key rings or string.

Children can then flip through the photo halves until they find a match. At the end of your journey, take the photos out of the book and use them as a matching game. As you play the game with your children, talk with them about how you keep them safe by buckling them up in their child restraint or booster seat.



- follow up on your 'Look who's buckled up safely' book with a **'travel safely'** matching flip book.



- print the 'Travel Safely' cards (in Info sheets)
- cut out each card and laminate if possible
- sort cards into two matching sets but keep them separate. For each set, punch holes in the cards and mix up the order.
- follow the instructions for the flip book above.

Children can then flip through the photo halves until they find a match.



- start a **print diary or e-diary** with your children before you leave and add to it as you travel:
  - in the days before your journey, encourage your children to draw or take photos of your family, your car, the safety door sticker and the preparations you are all making for the journey
  - take photos of the children as they get into the car and when they are safely buckled up for the journey
  - encourage your children to draw or take photos of the sights and objects of interest to them
    - during breaks on your journey,
    - on the way there and back, and
    - at your destination.