


Safe Journeys Safe Communities: A Kids and Traffic road safety education checklist for early childhood services




Early childhood educators can help improve the safety of young children as passengers and pedestrians and at play by including road safety education in their program. This works best in a play-based, child-centred learning environment, supported by responsive educators and involving families. Early childhood educators can also promote safe travel practices with families and within local communities by encouraging all the adults in children's lives to use consistent road safety messages.

This checklist helps educators explore ways of including road safety education across the early childhood curriculum. We encourage you to recognise the uniqueness of your local community. Developing community connections can help you deliver road safety education that is relevant to the children and their families. This checklist supports the **National Quality Standard** and many of the principles, practices and outcomes of the **Early Years Learning Framework for Australia**.

While planning, developing or reviewing your road safety education program, check that it ...	
Reflects the local traffic environment by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including locally relevant information about safe travel practices in your policies, including Safe Arrivals and Departures, Safe Excursions and Safe Travel Promoting the Key Road Safety Messages with children, educators, families and the local community in relevant and meaningful ways Including photos of families travelling safely in their local community to prompt them to 'Talk Traffic with Kids' and actively engage children in road safety discussions 	
Acknowledges diversity by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering the various ways families travel to and from your children's service Assessing the wider road safety issues that affect your service, families, children and local community Valuing and reflecting cultural diversity when planning road safety learning experiences for children 	
Connects to the wider community by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including walking excursions in the local area and 'Talking Traffic with Kids' Promoting engagement with other children's services, primary schools and relevant community networks in your area 	
Includes Kids and Traffic resources by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly using them as part of ongoing planned learning experiences Adapting them to add meaning and relevance to your road safety program Using photos of the children who attend your service travelling safely to make personalised books, puzzles, posters and games for children and families 	

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... and also check that your road safety education program	
Supports educators to make it meaningful to children and families by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having frequent conversations with children and their families about their journeys and safe travel practices • Planning learning experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ informed by your observations of children's journeys and your evaluation of their understandings and attitudes towards keeping safe ◦ that recognise children as part of their family and community to help achieve safer travel outcomes 	
Reflects the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking broader curriculum decisions to road safety planning • Sharing the Key Road Safety Messages during everyday experiences across the curriculum, including dramatic play, music, language, arrivals and departures, outdoor play, transition times and discussions • Documenting and assessing children's road safety learning to inform further relevant follow-up learning experiences for children 	
Promotes the Key Road Safety Messages through partnerships with families by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly sharing safe travel information with families • Involving them in road safety policy development • Making your individual road safety program visible to families through documentation • Encouraging families to share important travel messages with other significant adults 	
Encourages educators to keep up to date with current road safety and safe travel information by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly attending <i>Kids and Traffic</i> professional development workshops • Visiting the <i>Kids and Traffic</i> and NSW Centre for Road Safety websites, www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au and http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/ • Reading our <i>Kids and Traffic</i> Gazettes and other support materials 	

