

# Road Safety Education

Children in our 3 and 4 yr old programs continue to be involved in road safety education. Over recent weeks the focus has been on the importance of wearing seat belts. Through play with our bikes and scooter we have been able to model, discuss and reinforce the importance of wearing helmets.



## Zebra crossing update

Many thanks for all the support families gave with signing the petition for a proposal to install a Zebra crossing outside our preschool. The council were understanding and interested with our request. This involved council conducting a pedestrian/traffic count on two occasions, then using the data to assess frequency against VIC Roads guidelines. Unfortunately the count fell well below these guidelines which meant the request cannot be pursued further. It was explained that if a crossing is installed where the frequency of use is low it becomes ineffective, as regular motorists predict it will not be used, which in turn makes the crossing a danger.

## Parent Survey results

The parent's survey completed last term saw 23 responses with the main challenges/issues being experienced from parents being

1. Holding hands when walking along paths and in car parks -18 response
2. Crossing the road safely – 16 response
3. Identifying road signs and what they mean – 15 responses.

Educators will use this information to plan learning opportunities over the next few months which will educate children towards developing stronger knowledge with these skills. You may see signs being used in play, hear songs, see puzzles of road signs, have discussions etc

### **Stop! Look! Listen! Think!**

At our service, the children have been introduced to the road safety ideas of stopping, looking, listening and thinking.

However they need the important adults in their lives to provide them with plenty of supervised practice in the real road environment to help develop their understanding of these ideas.

Walking and talking together with your children is a great way to help develop their skills in the road environment. Try these activities:

#### **Stop!**

- Show them how some traffic can take a long time to stop.
- Watch traffic stopping at road signs or crossings. Show your children that traffic doesn't always come to a complete stop and it is important to always check that traffic has stopped completely before crossing the road.

#### **Look!**

- Look for vehicles reversing from driveways. Talk about the 'clues' that tell you that a vehicle might appear. For example, people waving goodbye, something moving, exhaust fumes, reversing lights or a beeping sound.
- Point out the traffic signs, signals and road markings and talk about what they each mean.

#### **Listen!**

- Does a car and truck sound the same?
- Do some vehicles sound fast or slow?
- Are some vehicles harder to see and hear?

#### **Think!**

- Do you think we have time to cross the road?
- Do we have a long way to walk to cross the road?
- Have you looked everywhere for traffic?

For more information, visit  
[roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au](http://roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au)

