

THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING A SAFE ROAD USER

Starting Out Safely – Victoria's Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program

Starting Out Safely, funded by VicRoads, is Victoria's early childhood road safety education program which ELAA has successfully delivered since 2011.

The Starting Out Safely program works on the premise that effective road safety education delivered during early childhood plays an important role in laying the foundations for safe road use throughout life. The early childhood road safety education program has been developed through evidence-based research, in collaboration with leading early childhood experts and is based on best practice principals.

Educators and early childhood professionals, working collaboratively with families, can help children become safe and independent road users.

The Starting Out Safely program has four main objectives

1. **Advocacy** – To improve road safety outcomes for children through advocating for the value of early childhood road safety education and influence early childhood policy at state and national levels.

2. **Professional education** – To improve road safety outcomes for children through delivering road safety education professional development sessions to early childhood professionals across Victoria.
3. **Child car restraint education** – To improve road safety outcomes for children through delivering child car seat and booster seat education sessions across Victoria.
4. **Preschool education** – To improve road safety outcomes for children through delivering *ThingleToodle* education sessions at preschools across Victoria.

Free education resources for teachers and families

The Starting Out Safely program has some fantastic free resources for services and educators including **best practice policies** and **resources for educators** and early childhood service providers which support the current quality principals in early learning including the Early Years Learning Framework, the National Quality Standards and the National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education.

There is also a range of story books, puzzles and playmats available for order and newsletter items and information about road safety.

Resources are available to families which complement the road safety education program delivered at early childhood services. These resources include information about choosing and using the most appropriate child car seats for your children and are available in over 22 languages.

For more information on the Starting Out Safely program and to access the free policies and resources go to the Starting Out Safely website childroadsafety.org.au.



Free Professional Development presented by Australia's leading experts

Starting Out Safety professional development training is presented by some of Australia's leading early childhood experts.

We share practical strategies to support young children's learning about road safety, centred on the latest evidence-based research. The sessions identify how road safety education links to the Early Years Learning Frameworks, the National Quality Standard and the National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education. Early childhood professionals and teachers are encouraged to take-up this fantastic opportunity to learn from some of the best and most sought after early years experts. The content of these engaging sessions have applications beyond road safety education and cover children's rights and children's active participation in their community.

OUR PRESENTERS



Catharine Hydon

Catharine has a Masters in Early Childhood Education specialising in early childhood practice, policy

and governance, the delivery of integrated services and the exploration of innovative programs to engage vulnerable children and their families. Catharine's involvement in the early childhood field is an important part of her commitment to the sector. Catharine is a dynamic speaker and is skilled at engaging professionals in professional dialogue and reflective conversations.

"Starting Out Safely has engaged the early years sector to explore a new understanding and contemporary perspective on road safety education. Through its innovative approaches and imaginative responses road safety education in Victoria and nationally, it has expanded in scope to become an important enabling factor for children's safe and ongoing participation in their community."



Louise Dorrat

Louise has taught at Swinburne and Victoria University and currently teaches at Deakin in the Bachelor Early

Childhood Education Institute of Koorie Education program. She has been a key presenter of the Starting Out Safely Professional Development sessions. Her extensive background in teaching and management of early childhood services contributes to the ongoing development of the program. Louise is a sought after key note speaker and her energetic workshops have taken her around Australia.

"The educators have been surprised that the PD has not resulted in 'something extra that we have to do in an already busy program' but has given educators increased knowledge in embedding road safety in their everyday curriculum. It is the shift in thinking from previously 'doing' a week of road safety every year to children being active learners through participation and meaningful experiences... it gives the educators new ideas and also the practices link to the National Quality Framework."



Nicole Pilsworth

Nicole is an Early Childhood Educator who has worked in Children's Services for over 20 years in a

variety of childcare and preschool settings in both NSW and Victoria. She worked with local government with educators across family day care, long day care and preschool as well as planning for the implementation of the National Reform Agenda, including National Quality Standards and Universal Access. Nicole has completed her Masters of Education and is currently working on the Victorian Advancing Early Learning Study project at the University of Melbourne.

"Feedback from participants in the professional development sessions has been consistently positive with many educators noting that there were elements of road safety education that they had not considered within their curriculum prior to the session."

"The PD session has inspired me to think more about how to incorporate road safety into the program."

Training session participant

"The program has given me an awareness of taking spontaneous learning opportunities when they occur which I may have overlooked."

Training session participant



Gilda Howard

Gilda currently consults to the early childhood sector and has managed a number of major projects including

the Business Services Review of an LGA children's service, the mentoring and coaching of senior management in a number of early childhood services. Gilda was CEO of Gowrie Victoria from June 2005 to June 2011. Gilda also held the role of Manager, Workplace Programs at Gowrie from 2000 to 2005.

"Participants from the RSE PD sessions have told us that the sessions are contemporary, practical and engaging. After experiencing a PD session, educators and students recognise how easy it is to embed road safety education into their programs and can link the road safety education learnings to the National Quality Standards."

Professional development sessions are tailored to suit early childhood professionals in any early childhood setting including, preschools and childcare, early childhood education students and Family Day Care educators and providers. Contact the RSE team on (03) 9489 3500 or rse@elaa.org.au to organise a session for your organisation.