



ARE YOUR CHILDREN STARTING OUT SAFELY?

Victoria's Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program

"This innovative and imaginative program enables children to become safe and active participants in their community." Catharine Hydon, May 2014

Starting Out Safely, funded by VicRoads, is Victoria's early childhood road safety education program.

Early Learning Association Australia has successfully delivered the Starting Out Safely program in collaboration with VicRoads 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.



Starting Out Safely

"I felt that the messages, particularly the visual messages, were extremely effective for assisting our client group (from the Karen Community) to understand the significance of the issues relating to child restraints."

Sue Ghalayini, Bendigo Community Health Service, CALD Facilitator

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.

ELAA, in collaboration with VicRoads, has delivered papers and presentations to **key sector conferences and events** across Australia including; the Early Childhood Australia Conference, the annual Early Childhood Education Conference, Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, Maternal and Child Health conference and major

children's and community events such as Romp & Stomp at Melbourne Museum.

We have some fantastic free resources such as **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.

For more information on the Starting Out Safely program and to access the free policies and resources go to www.elaa.org.au/roadsafety or visit www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au.

Highlights of the Starting Out Safely program since 2011

Over **3830 early childhood educators** have participated in road safety education professional development sessions, delivered by leading early childhood experts, including over 500 early childhood students from tertiary institutions

Over **1800 preschools** across Victoria have participated in ThingleToodle education sessions, reaching over **24,400** young Victorian children and their families

Over **2400 parents and carers** from culturally and linguistically diverse communities have attended over 125 child car restraint information sessions

More than **1300 family day care educators** have attended a child car restraint information sessions

More than **100 maternal and child health nurses** have attended a child restraint information session.

