

TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION AWARDS

The Traffic Safety Education Awards program recognises the achievements of early childhood professionals and schools in the provision of exemplary traffic safety education.

In 2010, early childhood educators Emily Hollywood and Janet Webster from the Janet Mundy Kindergarten won the 2010 VicRoads Starting Out Safely Award.

Their high quality submission demonstrated implementation of a well-planned and comprehensive traffic safety education program with clear links to the Learning and Development Outcomes in the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF).

“We believe road safety education is extremely important, and teaching children at a young age is paramount to instilling good road safety habits in the future,” Ms Hollywood said.

“In conjunction with families and using resources from the ‘Starting Out Safely’ kit we ensure children have an understanding of the road safety issues that present the greatest dangers to them. Through active participation, we encourage children to explore aspects of pedestrian safety, passenger safety and safe play”, added Ms Webster.

2011 Award winner Dawson St Preschool represented by Lori Farchione, presented their Traffic Safety Education program

to VicRoads which embraced a holistic approach to road safety education with their children, families and community. The educators decided to set up the outdoor environment to reflect road awareness and pedestrian safety through community role play.

The educators created a traffic course consisting of children’s crossing, left and right lanes, a roundabout (all painted in white on the concrete area). Educators also painted a car park with numbers one to four and added correspondent number plates to the bikes to reflect traffic conditions and so that children knew where to park their bikes when finished. They continued to add props such as traffic lights, lolly-pop crossing signs and flags etc.

Throughout the year the children engage in community role play and act out roles such as traffic controllers, police officers, pedestrians who go across the crossing or drivers. Through role play the children actively participate in traffic safety education and develop road safety skills as educators scaffold their learning by questioning, prompting and demonstrating learning. The children also engage in practical experiences to fully understand traffic safety within our environment.



Photos of the TSE program at Dawson St Preschool.

