



# EVERYDAY ROAD SAFETY; OUT AND ABOUT IN DUNKELD

**Dunkeld Kindergarten is in a small rural community at the base of the Grampians, 283 kilometres west of Melbourne. Dunkeld doesn't get much traffic, in fact it doesn't even have traffic lights but the teacher at Dunkeld Kindergarten, Debbie Millard, recently won this year's Starting Out Safely Award presented at the Victorian Traffic Safety Education Conference in May this year.**

Dunkeld Kindergarten was recognised for providing exemplary road safety education. Debbie was honoured to receive the award but bemused to receive this recognition. "(Road safety) is something we do every day; I believe children learn by getting out from behind the fence and going out into their community. Talking to the children about being safe is just part of being out and about" she said.

The focus of this year's Starting Out Safely Award was The National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education – *bringing the Practices to life*. The eight national practices, which are aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework, were developed by Australian and New Zealand experts, to guide early childhood educators to develop evidence based road safety education for children and their families.

Debbie and her colleagues have managed to include road safety education in the broader education program by making it a natural part of everything they do and adapting the resources available to suit their own community. "It's always an incidental part of an excursion" said Debbie, "for example last Anzac day we took the children for a walk to the memorial at the park and on the way talked about safe places to cross the road and where to walk where there was no footpath."

"While it is still very important for the children to learn about road safety in other places, we ask the children what it is like at their home. We talk about watching out for utes, motorbikes, harvesters, etc., we show the children safe places to cross and how to walk down a road with no footpath... things that are relevant to their town" she said.

Dunkeld Kindergarten extended their ThingleToodle education session with a walk around town to put into action what they had learnt. Debbie's group has also enjoyed using the *Sounds the Street Makes* app on the tablet which she downloaded from the VicRoads' apps store.

"Our kids will travel to other places too, where there is lots of traffic, people and traffic lights" she said, "they need to know how to be safe in all situations."



Debbie Millard and children from Dunkeld Kindergarten with ThingleToodle.

**For information on the National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education or Starting Out Safely go to [roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au](http://roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au)**

**To download the free tablet and mobile apps – Street Sounds and Click Clack – please visit Apple iTunes or Google Play (search for VicRoads).**