

CELEBRATING BOOK WEEK WITH ROAD SAFETY READING RESOURCES



The Children’s Book Council of Australia Children’s Book Week is celebrated all over Australia during August and the children of Canterbury Norwood Baptist Kindergarten focussed a part of their Book Week activities on two road safety education (RSE) resources – That’s the Sound the Street Makes and Click Clack – created specifically by VicRoads to help preschool children become independent learners about road safety.

The children were first treated to a visit from Professor Eric Speriment and his friend ThingleToodle where important messages about road safety were creatively and clearly illustrated by the Professor. The children had numerous opportunities to be actively engaged in the session through their interactions with the Professor by suggesting ideas, singing songs, answering questions and movement.

After this session, each child received, in recognition of Book Week, their own copy of either *That’s the Sound the Street Makes* or *Click Clack* – both authored by Danny Katz and illustrated by Mitch Vane. Canterbury Norwood Baptist Kindergarten also received large format versions of each book for their educators. Educators who attend ELAA’s *Starting Out Safely* educator professional development receive a free large format version of the books as part of their resource pack.

Developing confident road safety learners

With research indicating that children under ten are most at risk of being injured as pedestrians, *That’s the Sound the Street Makes* was developed as an aid to support children to learn about pedestrian safety. The main character, Ella, models the correct behaviours toward pedestrian safety to her “flu-foggy” father with the comic effect of the role reversal providing a great premise for getting the key road safety messages across.

Through *Click Clack* Danny Katz and Mitch Vane encourage children to associate their booster seats with fun by imagining that they are riding in more than just booster seats but imaginary camels, thrones, roller coasters and rocket ships.

WHAT OUR ROAD SAFETY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTERS SAY...

“ The use of literature in early childhood education is well understood to support children to become effective communicators. The RSE children’s books enable educators to not only enhance children’s expressive and receptive language; they expose them to important road safety messages relevant to their daily lives. Because the books are of a consistent high quality (story content and illustration), the stories draw children in and allow the educators to present ideas in imaginative and compelling ways. They are a valuable addition to any early childhood library.” – **Catharine Hydon:** Early Childhood consultant and professional development presenter for the *Starting Out Safely* Road Safety Education program.

“ The main character in *The Sound the Street Makes* is Ella; a capable and competent child who knows all the road safety rules and has to remind her Dad. The style of writing encourages the children to be part of a call and response experience – they become active participants. Children learn best when they are enjoying themselves and both books foster an immediate sense of fun with rhyme, repetition and rhythmic prose.” – **Louise Dorrat:** Early Childhood consultant and professional development presenter for the *Starting Out Safely* Road Safety Education program.

More than just books

Both books are also complemented with free smart phone and tablet apps that bring the characters to life and reinforce the key safety messages with sounds, colours and other features that help to engage readers.

The tablet versions have bonus games to further learning about road safety and can be downloaded from either iTunes or Google Play or from www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au/resources/early-childhood

Resources, training and more information

Books – to order *That’s the Sound the Street Makes* or *Click Clack* call VicRoads on (03) 8391 3255.

RSE Professional Development – to register your interest in a *Starting Out Safely* early childhood road safety educational professional development session contact ELAA at rse@elaa.org.au

Child car seat information sessions and resources; RSE policies for services and family day care; ThingleToodle visits; research; parent and educator information; and further professional development information – visit the *Starting Out Safely* Childhood Road Safety website at www.childroadsafety.org.au



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