

Road Safety Activities

There are many ways to include road safety activities into your service's programs. Children benefit greatly from learning about why it is important to be safe around roads. Try some of the activities listed below at your service or visit the website for more ideas

www.movewelleatwell.tas.gov.au

1. Roads and footpaths
2. Bright bodies
3. Box cars
4. Seatbelt collages

1. Roads and footpaths

What you will need:

- Coloured paper and cardboard (red, orange/yellow and green)
- A variety of cardboard boxes
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Chalk or markers (for outdoors) masking tape (for indoors)
- Dress up clothes

What to do:

- Have a discussion about the types of rules about being safe around roads. Discuss things that help us cross roads such as traffic lights, zebra crossings and crossing guards.
- As a group work on a construction project to create: traffic lights (use cardboard boxes and coloured paper), zebra crossing (Use black and white paper or chalk to draw on the pavement), crossing guard outfit (Use bright clothes out of the dress up basket or fabric).
- Mark out a road and footpath with the chalk or masking tape.
- Place your constructed props around the road and suggest a few people that the children could be (driver, pedestrian, cyclist, crossing guard).
- Let the children explore the road and then stop and talk about some of the rules such as good places to cross and why the kerb/footpath is different from the road.
- Have children take it in turns to 'change' the traffic lights by using something to cover up two lights at a time.

2. Bright bodies

What you will need:

- Large pieces of paper
- Paint

What to do:

- Ask children to lay down on a piece of paper and have a partner trace around their body.
- Encourage children to cut their body shape out and paint either dark clothes or bright clothes on their cut out.
- Once dry put them up on the wall and have a group discussion about the best colours to wear when you are near a road.
- Talk about clothes in relation to wet weather and at night time. Turn off the lights and ask children to discuss whether they can see the bright or dark colours best.

3. Box cars

What you will need:

- Large cardboard boxes
- Paper plates
- Paint
- Stockings or long strips of fabric

What to do:

- In small groups help children cut the bottom out of cardboard box and paint it.
- Once the paint is dry offer a range of materials for children to stick on and in their cars e.g. paper plates, coloured and textured cardboard, cellophane. Help children think about what is on and in a car (wheels, doors and handles, lights, steering wheel, seat belts).
- Once the cars are complete ask each small group to show their car to the rest of the group.
- Talk about the safety features of the car and why people always wear a seatbelt when driving their cars or when being a passenger.

4. Seatbelt collages

What you will need:

- A range of magazines (including car or road magazines)
- Pictures and photos of anyone wearing a constraint for safety (cars: seatbelts, plane pilots – restraints, astronauts – restraints)

What to do:

- Put out a range of magazines and pictures containing photos of cars, vehicles and restraints.
- Encourage children to look through the magazines and cut out pictures about cars and safety. Ask them to put together a collage of safety pictures (individually or as a group).
- As a group discuss the collages and talk about the different type of restraints that keep us safe and why we need to wear a seat belt.

These 'Road Safety Activities are adapted from the *Starting Out safely* resource (Vic Roads 2002).