

Road Safety

Policy statement

ECMS is committed to ensuring all children attending our services are:

- Adequately supervised at all times
- Kept safe as passengers in motor vehicles, as pedestrians and cyclists
- Able to participate in road safety education to assist them in being and becoming safe and responsible road users.

Policy principles

ECMS:

- Values the rights of children to be active citizens in their communities
- Ensures children develop as successful, competent and capable learners
- Believes in equity, inclusion and diversity
- Supports the role of parents and families as children's first and most influential teachers
- Is committed to an evidence based approach in the provision of road safety education and practice

Scope

ECMS educators

Background

Road trauma is a leading cause of unintentional injuries among children aged 0-1.4 years in Australia'. Young children are at risk as passengers in motor vehicles, as pedestrians and as cyclists.

They are particularly vulnerable because of their small size and the fact that their cognitive and perceptual skills are still developing. Road safety education can help to reduce the risk of serious injury and death among young children by assisting them to develop skills and knowledge about being safe in the road environment.

Working collaboratively with families to help children become safe and responsible road users aligns with the learning outcomes of the Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework (VEYLD).

Very high participation rates in early childhood programs in Victoria enables service providers and educators to contribute to making children safe road users by embedding road safety education in the curriculum and supporting children, parents and guardians to learn about being safe as passengers, pedestrians and cyclists.

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Procedure

The Nominated Supervisor/Centre Director is responsible for:

Excursions

- ensuring a written risk assessment is undertaken prior to conducting excursions, including details of the safest route for travel, type of vehicle and required restraints

Supervision

- ensuring that an attendance record is kept for all children attending the service
- ensuring all children are adequately supervised at all times, including while on excursions and regular outings

Education

- ensuring that road safety education reflecting the National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education (refer to Appendices at end of this document) is provided.
- ensuring all children attending family day care are included and able to participate in road safety education (refer to Inclusion and Equity Policy).

Delivery & Collection of children

- ensuring educators/staff only allow a child to depart from the family day care residence or venue with a person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee or with the written authorisation of one of these except in the case of a medical or other emergency
- ensuring that parents/guardians and visitors to family day care residences or venues are provided with location specific road safety information (for example - details about where to park when delivering and collecting children and local area speed limits etc.).
- ensuring that parents/guardians are provided with general road safety information about transporting to and from the service (which might include using the 'safety door' of the car (the rear kerbside door, away from traffic) when children enter or leave the vehicle, driveway safety and role modelling safe road use).

Equipment

- ensuring that bicycle helmets that meet Australian Standards are used correctly by children where bicycles or wheeled toys are part of the program

Professional Development & Resourcing

- organising regular professional development/training for educators, staff and authorised drivers on road safety topics, including vehicle and driveway safety, current legislation, regulations, rules, standards and best practice information.
- providing educators with access to a broad range of resources to support road safety education.

Policy Created Date	July 2014, Reviewed September 2016
Policy Review Date	September 2018
Sources and Further Reading	<p>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children) Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section -67 Road Safety Act 1986</p> <p>Regulations Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 99, aoo, aoa, ~02, ~59, ~60, ~6~ Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 Road Safety (Drivers) Regulations 2009 Road Safety (General) Regulations 2009</p> <p>Rules Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Vic)</p> <p>Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AS/NZS 1.754 Australian/New Zealand Standard Child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles• AS/NZS 4370 Australian/New Zealand Standard Restraint of children with disabilities, or medical conditions, in motor vehicles• AS/NZS 8005 Australian/New Zealand Standard Accessories for child restraints for use in motor vehicles• AS/NZS 2063 Australian/ New Zealand Standard Bicycle helmets
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