



SMART STEPS: MAKING SAFER CHOICES – TAKING SMARTER STEPS

Smart Steps: Making safer choices – Taking smarter steps is about children, parents, carers and early childhood educators working in partnership to guide children's learning in being and becoming safe and independent road users.

This early childhood road safety education program has been developed applying evidence-based research and using best-practice principles.

Originally developed by School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA) in 2005 with a parent engagement

focus, the *Smart Steps* program has now been revised by SDERA to address the needs of educators working in early childhood services.

For educators working in a day care service, the new *Smart Steps* program supports the National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). The National Quality Standard are also highlighted throughout the program resources.

From a school perspective, the *Smart Steps* resources link to the WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and WA Health and Physical Education (HPE) Syllabus.

AIMS OF SDERA'S SMART STEPS PROGRAM

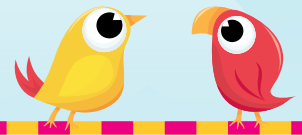


The *Smart Steps* program aims to:

- 1 Enhance an educator's understanding of the developmental capabilities of children in the traffic environment.
- 2 Focus on the key messages to teach children so that they can remain safer in the traffic environment.
- 3 Provide a range of teaching and learning strategies educators can use with children to build their road safety knowledge and skills.
- 4 Explore strategies to engage parents in their children's road safety education.



THE SMART STEPS MODEL

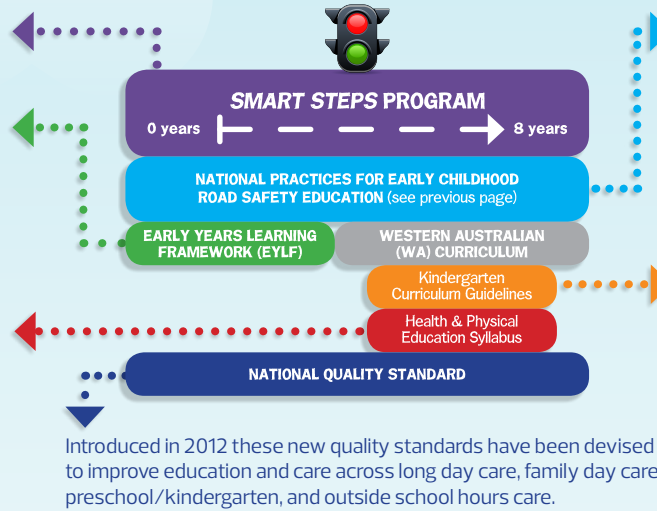


The *Smart Steps* model explains how the program has been constructed and the links to national and state-based frameworks and curriculum that underpin the program resources.

A road safety education program for educators working with children aged 0–8 years and their parents/carers.

Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework describes the principles, practices and outcomes that support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school.

The HPE Syllabus focuses on students learning how to enhance their own and other's health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity participation in varied and changing contexts.



These practices have been developed by early childhood education and road safety experts throughout Australia and New Zealand to support evidence-based road safety education in early childhood settings. The eight practices are based on research and are strongly aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

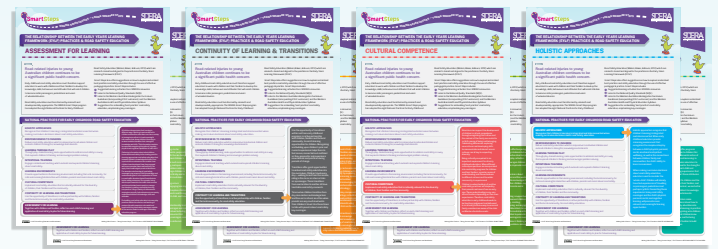
The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines guide educators to develop Kindergarten curriculum for Western Australian children. The guidelines draw from the key ideas and related content from the EYLF to construct curriculum to ensure that all children in Kindergarten experience quality teaching and learning.

Introduced in 2012 these new quality standards have been devised to improve education and care across long day care, family day care, preschool/kindergarten, and outside school hours care.

THE RESOURCES

EIGHT PRACTICE DOCUMENTS

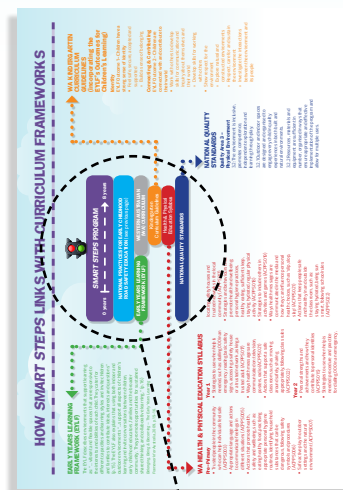
Included within the new *Smart Steps* resources are eight practice documents that have been written using the National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education. The Road Safety Education Reference Group Australia (RSEGA) commissioned a research project, conducted by the Child Health Promotion Research Centre at Edith Cowan University, to develop eight national practices for road safety education in the early childhood setting. These Practices align with the EYLF and underpin SDERA's *Smart Steps* program.



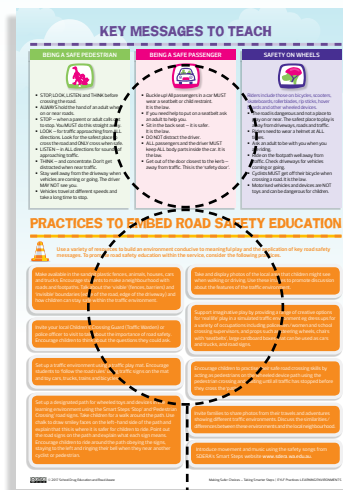
UNPACKING A PRACTICE DOCUMENT IN THE SMART STEPS: MAKING SAFER CHOICES – TAKING SMARTER STEPS RESOURCE



Includes a general explanation of road safety education and the *Smart Steps* program, an overview of the eight practices and then explores one practice in more detail.



The *Smart Steps* model is introduced and individual links relevant to the specific practice and the National Quality Standard, WA HPE syllabus and the WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines, are highlighted.



Introduces key road safety messages to teach in an early childhood setting. Ideas of relevant teaching and learning practices are included.



This section includes specific links to SDERA's resources. The activities in the Challenges and Choices resources are relevant to each practice.

THE RESOURCES



CASE STUDIES

A number of case studies have been written that share stories of how educators have explicitly included road safety education within their early childhood setting. The case studies clearly demonstrate links to different practices.



TEACHING & LEARNING RESOURCES

The eight practice documents make strong connections with SDERA resources highlighting teaching and learning strategies for educators to use when sharing road safety education key messages with children, parents and carers, and the wider community.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Smart Steps program has a suite of resources that educators can access for their road safety education program. These resources include storybooks, pamphlets, posters, colouring-in sheets, songs, interactive games, illustrations of practice, and discussion photos. To access these resources head to <http://www.sdera.wa.edu.au/programs/smart-steps/smart-steps-resources/>

If you would like to know more about the *Smart Steps* program please contact us email: sdera.co@education.wa.edu.au or tel: (08) 9402 6415