



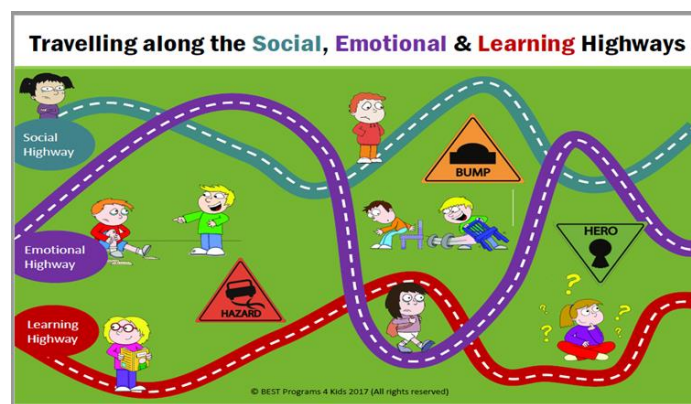
Harvey Primary School

Gibbs Street, Harvey, Western Australia, 6220
PO Box 504, Harvey, Western Australia, 6220
Telephone: (08) 9782 3200
Email: harvey.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year, Harvey Primary School is very excited about the introduction of a new Social & Emotional Learning Program called “**Highway Heroes**” from Year 1 to Year 6. “**Little Highway Heroes**” will be used for Kindergarten and Pre-Primary. Highway Heroes aims to develop children’s proactive skills (forming friendships, gaining inclusion, thought/mood management) and reactive skills (dealing with play refusals, friendship difficulties, teasing and bullying) by using tools, resources and activities with structured modules and lesson plans on particular topics such as Resilience and Bullying.

The program utilises an overarching metaphor of travelling along the 'Highway of Life' and becoming a 'Highway Hero'. By acquiring and learning 'Highway Tools', children are encouraged to successfully deal with the inevitable 'Bumps and Hazards' they may encounter along the way.



PARENT INFORMATION

© BEST Programs 4 Kids - All Rights Reserved

The Highway to Success and Happiness

Welcome to 'Highway Heroes. Over the coming year, your child will be involved in a program of social and emotional learning that uses a teaching metaphor of everyone being on a journey travelling along the Highway of Life. They will learn that one of the first destinations on the Highway is their current one – Primary School - with many more to follow, and that along the Highway, everyone will experience many events ('Highway Happenings') – some fabulous, others horrible, many bland and every so often, exhilarating. It's rarely dull!

Think about the Highway of your Life, with its many twists and turns; the times you needed to slow down for repairs, or perhaps came to a complete stop altogether and needed help to get going again. These are common Happenings on the Highway of Life, and so everyone needs HIGHWAY TOOLS to deal with them - and that means becoming a 'HIGHWAY HERO!'

Highway Happenings

Primary School is one of the first independent destinations, and whilst there, every student’s job is to acquire knowledge - academic, social and emotional – the latter two being the focus of Highway Heroes. Your child will be learning that everyone experiences BUMPS and HAZARDS on the Highway, and therefore, learning the skills to deal with these Highway Happenings is vital. Highway Heroes will help your child to learn these skills, and as their parent, you will also be included with weekly information and ideas for home practise. That’s the pathway to becoming a HIGHWAY HERO - and every child deserves the opportunity to be on that pathway.

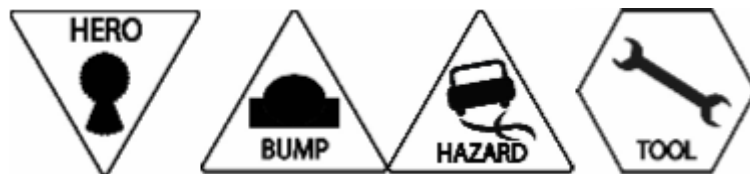
Highway Hero Skills

To be a HIGHWAY HERO means a child has positive self and social management skills and can use positive thought patterning - called 'Supa Thinking' – to make sensible, rational choices – about HAZARDS, BUMPS – and all sorts of Highway Happenings. Let's consider the following situations.

If a child regularly forgets to take their books and lunch to school, misses homework deadlines and has a desk that's chaotic, there's a very good chance that the child will be underachieving. Learning good planning and organisational skills – HIGHWAY TOOLS - are what is required to help that child, because the HIGHWAY BUMP of disorganisation is disrupting their journey, and perhaps will also determine their destination.

Similarly, if every morning while walking to school, a child is called names by a group of kids who snatch his bag and kick it along the ground, that child's ability to focus and learn at school will be markedly diminished – again interfering with the journey – and the destination. What that child needs is 1) awareness that he has choices in how to respond to bullying, and 2) have the skills to enact them – again, each of them HIGHWAY TOOLS.

These are the symbols that you will be seeing over the coming weeks as your child learns about HIGHWAY BUMPS, HAZARDS and TOOLS, so that they too can become a HIGHWAY HERO. It's terrific that you are all on the journey, so buckle up!



The four Highway Heroes Modules teach social and emotional skills through a focus on, and explicit teaching about, the following areas:

Learning to Read the Signs

When travelling along the Highway, it's important to read the road signs that tell us a HAZARD is approaching, what the distance is, the safest speed to travel, and when it's time to slow down and prepare for it. Your child will be taught similar skills regarding the warning signs of an approaching BUMP or HAZARD, differentiating between them, and then recognising them when they loom up. The next step is to ensure that the child has an easy to remember, effective range of HIGHWAY TOOLS to calmly and confidently deal with that HIGHWAY HAPPENING - and be a HIGHWAY HERO.

The Highway is a Lifetime Journey

There is so much to learn on the Highway of Life, and although there are commonalities, each person's journey has its unique characteristics. As adults, you have negotiated many BUMPS and HAZARDS, and teaching your child to do the same is essential to their success and happiness. You are your child's most important teacher, and your support is essential to help them make the most of their learning.

Throughout the modules you may even find some useful TOOLS that you can use in your own life – whether with your partner, family, friends or work colleagues.

Your support and involvement with the program is very important to us. You will receive parent information handouts and home activities on a regular basis to be able to talk with your child at home about what they are learning. Information will also be included in the newsletter and on the school's Connect School Space. If you have any questions about the program, or the skills that your child is learning, please speak to your child's classroom teacher.

Kind Regards,

Harvey Primary School Staff and Administration
18th February 2019