



## Parent and Caregiver Guide

Honey's story is about more than listening.

It is about how children learn about the world.

Like Honey, young children are naturally curious. They explore, test boundaries, take risks, and sometimes make mistakes. That is how they learn.

The people who care for children have an important role to play. We can't remove every risk from a child's life, but we can create environments that help children grow, explore, and thrive safely.

This guide offers a few ideas to help continue the conversation after reading Honey's story together.

### Reading Honey's Story Together

Stories help children understand ideas that can be difficult to explain directly. As you read, you might ask:

#### Before reading

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What do you think Honey and Phoebe are like?
- Why do grown-ups make safety rules?

#### During the story

- Why was Phoebe worried?
- What do you think Honey was feeling?
- What would you have done?
- Have you ever been so excited that you forgot to be careful?

#### After the story

- What did Honey learn?
- What did Phoebe learn?
- What did the adults learn?
- What can our family do to help keep children and pets safe?

There are no perfect answers. The goal is simply to start the conversation.



## **Growing, Exploring, and Thriving**

Children learn best through experience.

The opportunity for adults is creating environments where children can explore safely enough to learn and confidently enough to grow.

### **A Family Safety Walk**

Take a walk around your home, driveway, street, or neighbourhood together.

Ask your child:

- Where is a great place to play?
- Where might a driver have trouble seeing someone?
- Where should we stop and look carefully?
- Where would Honey and Phoebe choose to play?

You may be surprised by what children notice.

### **Honey's Safe Place Challenge**

Together, find:

- ☐ A safe place to play.
- ☐ A safe place to wait when cars are moving.
- ☐ A safe place to ride a scooter or bike.
- ☐ A safe place to walk a dog.
- ☐ A safe way to cross the road.
- ☐ A place where an adult might need to pay extra attention.

Talk about why each place is safe.

The goal isn't to make children afraid of cars. The goal is to help them understand how to make good choices while exploring the world around them.

### **A Thought for Grown-Ups**

Children don't always make perfect decisions.

Neither do adults.

The most effective safety habits often begin with simple questions:

"Can I see the children?"

"Can they see me?"

"Is this the safest place for them to play?"



## Activities for Families

### Honey's Safety Detective Game

Can your child become a Safety Detective?

The next time you're out walking, see if you can spot:

- ☐ Someone using a pedestrian crossing.
- ☐ A driver checking carefully before reversing.
- ☐ A child holding an adult's hand near traffic.
- ☐ A dog on a lead near a road.
- ☐ A safe place to play.
- ☐ A safe place to cross the road.
- ☐ Someone making a good safety choice.

Every time you spot one, talk about why it helps keep people safe.

### What Did Honey Learn?

Read each situation together and choose the best answer.

*A ball rolls into the driveway.*

- A. Run after it.
- B. Stop and ask an adult for help.

*A car is about to back out.*

- A. Stand where the driver can see you.
- B. Walk behind the car.

*Your friend wants to cross between parked cars.*

- A. Help them find a safer place to cross.
- B. Follow them.

*You're walking your dog near a road.*

- A. Keep your dog close.
- B. Let your dog run ahead.

Talk about your answers and create your own "What Did Honey Learn?" questions.



## **Learn More and Take Action**

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### **Children and Roads**

A short summary:

- Children under about 9–10 struggle to judge speed and distance.
- Supervision remains important.
- Learning happens gradually.

### **Driveways and Vehicles**

- Create safe play spaces.
- Walk around the vehicle before moving.
- Know where children and pets are.

### **Backup Cameras**

- Helpful but not foolproof.
- Drivers should still check around the vehicle.

### **Walking School Buses**

- A great way to build community and road skills.
- Talk to your school to get one started.

### **Children, Pets, and Hot Cars**

- Never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle at any time of year.

## **Further Resources**

### **New Zealand**

- SafeKids Aotearoa
- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
- Plunket
- ACC

### **International**

- Kids and Car Safety
- Safe Kids Worldwide



## Teaching Resources

### Honey's Safety Challenge

#### A Teacher Activity for Preschool – Year 4

Read each question and choose the best answer.

Then talk about why you chose it.

There are no prizes for finishing first.

The goal is to become a great Safety Thinker!

**1. Honey sees her friends playing across the driveway.**

**What should she do?**

- A. Run straight across.
- B. Stop and check that it is safe before crossing.
- C. Close her eyes and run quickly.

**2. A ball rolls towards the road. What is the safest choice?**

- A. Chase it straight away.
- B. Stop and ask an adult for help.
- C. Throw another ball after it.

**3. Why was Phoebe worried about Honey?**

- A. Honey was dirty.
- B. Honey was running near cars.
- C. Honey was late for lunch.



**4. Which place is usually safest for playing?**

- A. A driveway.
- B. The road.
- C. A fenced yard, playground, or park.

**5. Why do adults sometimes make safety rules?**

- A. To spoil the fun.
- B. To help keep people safe while they learn and explore.
- C. Because they like saying "No."

**6. A driver is about to reverse a car. What should children do?**

- A. Stay where the driver can see them.
- B. Stand behind the car.
- C. Run around the driveway.

**7. Honey made a mistake. What happened next?**

- A. She learned something important.
- B. She never played again.
- C. Phoebe stopped being her friend.

**8. Why can roads and driveways be tricky for young children?**

- A. Children are still learning about the world and how vehicles move.
- B. Children don't like roads.
- C. Roads are always noisy.



**9. What can adults do to help children stay safe?**

- A. Create safe places to play and supervise when needed.
- B. Tell children to figure it out alone.
- C. Stay inside and hope for the best.

**10. What is the most important lesson from Honey's story?**

- A. Dogs should never play.
- B. Mistakes can happen, and we can learn from them.
- C. Beaches are more fun than driveways.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What was the most important thing Honey learned?
2. What was the most important thing Phoebe learned?
3. What can children do to help keep themselves safe?
4. What can adults do to help children grow, explore, and thrive?
5. What is one thing your family, school, or community does well to help children stay safe?
6. What is one thing that could be improved?

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