

Virus education pack to empower kids

BY EDWINA WILLIAMS

A NEW resource pack, *SeeMore Bug Safety: the tiny germs we can't see* has been created by Dr Susie O'Neill to educate preschool aged children about preventing the contraction and spread of viruses.

As the CEO and founder of Ballarat's KIDS Foundation, Dr O'Neill said the "smart book" and information offer ways to "ease uncertainty" for little people feeling anxious or worried, and has been developed in response to feedback from early childhood educators.

"We help build strong lives by giving children experience-based understanding of how to manage everyday risks and challenges, so the little people in our lives are ready to take on the world," Dr O'Neill said.

Ten thousand free resource packs are set to arrive at kinders,

preschools and early learning centres around the country so children can understand how to best look after themselves, and those around them, as soon as possible.

Steve Moneghetti, an ambassador for the foundation for 25 years, is part of the campaign's launch.

"Previously in my life I was an educator and teacher. I understand how important these resources are," he said.

Parents can access resources for their early learners working at home via kidsfoundation.org.au.

The KIDS Foundation also runs an Adopt a GrandBuddy program where kindergartens visit aged care centres. With normal meetings not appropriate due to social restrictions, further resources packs will provide strategies for children to keep in touch with their GrandBuddies in an alternative, creative, distant way.



Launch: KIDS Foundation mascot SeeMore Safety, Oscar Mulcahy and ambassador Steve Moneghetti. Photo: SUPPLIED