



Jaxon Rodgers, 5, and dad Jeremy are learning to skateboard safely ● **Picture: Inga Williams**

Skateboard class wheelie good fun

by Kerryn Anker and
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DOWNHILL skateboard riding has in the past been frowned on as too dangerous for children.

But a group of world champions hope to change that perception while showing riders the skills needed to stay safe.

Champions from Norway, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden and Hawaii will run free downhill skateboarding classes at Nerang's Gold Coast Cycle Centre at 10.30am to 3.30pm today.

The event is just one of a number of school holiday programs running across the Gold Coast over the next months.

Swedish three-time world downhill skating champion Martin Siegrist, 29, and this year's Bathurst world championships

winner Kevin Reimer, 20, of Canada are looking forward to showing children the ropes.

"I think it's a nice opportunity and I think it's especially great that we can teach kids at a safe venue," said Siegrist.

"The most dangerous thing is not knowing how to stop and going on big roads without experience.

"The biggest problem is bringing newcomers into the sport and teaching them safety."

Apart from downhill skateboarding, children can learn everything from circus tricks to cooking up Christmas treats.

The Super Performance Centre's Circus School in Ashmore is teaching children aged between five and 13 skills such as juggling, acrobatics, tight wire, trapeze and wall climbing from 9am to 3pm, weekdays.

"These are really fun activities, where children can learn a lot," said centre spokeswoman Kirsten Slapp.

"The trapeze is one of our most popular activities – it's a great way to tire out the kids.

Gold Coast Busy Bodies Australia managing partner Sheridan Buchanan said her company had devised a program to suit all ages.

"We have Titans skills clinics on Monday and our Summer Kids Cook in January, with a summer menu for the kids to cook," she said.

"One of our most popular activities is the Hip Hoppers Dance Workshop."

For details on holiday activities visit the Gold Coast City Council Active and Healthy Holiday Program website or www.busbodiesaustralia.com.au.