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The Importance of Child Passenger Safety

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Featured Speaker

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**Conflict of Interest &
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Learning Objectives

- Recognize the important potential of child passenger safety to reduce the risk of death and injury for child occupants in the event of a crash;
- Describe factors that contribute to the high prevalence of child safety seat misuse to better inform clients and families;
- Describe the process for selecting an appropriate child safety seat; and
- Identify available resources to ensure child safety restraints are being used correctly.

Why Child Passenger Safety?

- Motor vehicle injury is a leading cause of death for children.
- Many of these deaths are preventable.

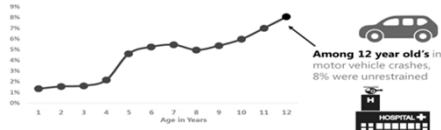
Why Child Passenger Safety?

In 2014, 41,998 children 12 years old and under were passengers in motor vehicle crashes across New York State



Why Child Passenger Safety?

As they got older, the **percentage of children in crashes unrestrained** increased across New York State in 2014



Among 12 year old's in motor vehicle crashes, 8% were unrestrained

Unrestrained kids 12 and under who are treated at a hospital following a motor vehicle collision have **2 times** the risk of a Traumatic Brain Injury.

Why Child Passenger Safety?

According to a recent NHTSA estimate, 59% of car seats are misused in a way that could reduce effectiveness

Properly Used Car Seats

- 71% effective in reducing deaths for infants
- 54% effective in reducing deaths for children ages 1-4

Children using booster seats

- 45% less likely to sustain injuries in a motor vehicle crash than children using only seatbelts

Correct Use



Car Seat Types

- Rear facing
- Forward facing
- Booster
- Seat belt



Rear-Facing Car Seats

- Use until child is a least 2 (or reaches height or weight limit)
- Designed to cradle and move with child in crash (reduces stress to child's head and neck)

Rear-Facing Car Seats

Types

- Infant car seat (rear-facing only)
- Convertible
- All in One

Rear-Facing Car Seats

Special considerations

- Child's head
- Position of harness straps and chest clip
- Recline angle
- Child's legs
- Safe storage of the tether



Forward-Facing Car Seats

- Use at 2 years or older or until child reaches height or weight limit
- Harness and tether limit forward movement in crash

Forward-Facing Car Seats

Types

- Convertible
- Combination
- All in One

Forward-Facing Car Seats

Special Considerations

- Position of harness straps
- Tether



Booster Seats

- Weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for the car seat

Booster Seats

Types

- High back booster
- Backless booster
- Combination
- All in One

Seat Belts

Use a lap and shoulder belt when the seat belts fit your child properly

5 Step Test

1. Back against the vehicle seat
2. Knees bend at edge of seat
3. Lap belt lies across top of thighs
4. Shoulder belt across chest and shoulder
5. Ability to ride this way for the entire trip

SAFE KIDS Car Seat Checkup

Top 5 Things to Do at Home

- Right Seat.** This is an easy one. Check the label on your car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height. Also, only use car seats from our expiration date. Just double-check the label on your car seat to make sure it is still safe.
 - Right Place.** Kids age 13+, just sit them. We know all 13+s ride in a back seat, so keep all children in a back seat until they are 13.
 - Right Direction.** Keep your child in a rear-facing car seat until at least age 2. When he or she outgrows the seat, move your child to forward-facing car seats and make sure to attach the top tether after you tighten and lock the seat belt or lower attachments. **SNATCH.**
 - Inch Test.** Once your car seat is installed, give it a good shake all the way around. Can you move it more than an inch side-to-side or front-to-back? A properly installed seat will rock more than an inch.
 - Pinch Test.** Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct side (check car seat manual). Now, with the child sitting at average head position, pinch the strap at your child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you're good to go.
- Please read the vehicle and car seat instruction manuals to help you with this checkup. If you are having even the slightest trouble, question or concern, don't worry. Certified child passenger safety technicians are waiting to help or even double-check your work.
- Visit safekids.org to find a car seat inspection expert in your community.

Overview

- Right Seat
- Right Place
- Right Direction
- Inch Test
- Pinch Test

The Right Seat Matters!

4 STEPS 4 KIDS

THE RIGHT SEAT MATTERS

4 STEPS 4 KIDS

THE RIGHT SEAT MATTERS

Rear-Facing Car Seats

Use a rear-facing car seat until your child is two years old or reaches the highest weight or height limit allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat. A convertible or 2-in-1 car seat should be used in the rear-facing position for babies who outgrow infant-only car seats.

Forward-Facing Car Seats

Use a forward-facing car seat when your child is two years or older. Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer.

Other Considerations

- Reading manuals (both car seat and car)
- **Seat placement in vehicle**
- Special needs
- Weather

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- Reading manuals (both car seat and car)
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Reasons for Misuse

- More than 100 different makes/models
- Failure to read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions and vehicle owner's manual
- CRS technology continues to evolve (e.g., LATCH system)

Improving Child Passenger Safety

- Child Restraint Laws
- Enhanced Enforcement Efforts
- Distribution
- Education

New York State's Child Restraint Law

- Children under age four must be restrained in a federally approved child safety seat.
- All children must be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system while riding in a motor vehicle, until they reach their 8th birthday.

Law vs. Best-Practice

- Height and weight vs. age requirements
- New laws reflecting best-practices

Improving Child Passenger Safety

- Child restraint laws
- Enhanced Enforcement Efforts
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- Distribution



National Child Passenger Safety Certification

- 18 years or older
- Attend all training classes
- Earn passing grades for written quizzes, hands-on skills assessments and a checkup event
- Continuing education requirements every two years

To learn more visit - <http://cert.safekids.org>



Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- New York State Department of Health
- Safe Kids Worldwide



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