

Ideas for Head Start Programs to Promote Car Safety for Children

1. Encourage parents of Early Head Start/Head Start-age children to:
 - a. Learn the safety differences between a safety seat with a harness and a booster and how to select the best seat for each child.
 - b. Provide the appropriate type of safety seat for each child on every ride.
 - c. Teach children why they need to be buckled up with Bucklebear (Teachers Guide: A Positive Approach to Teaching Child Passenger Safety) take-home projects.
 - d. Make sure safety belts and appropriate child restraints are used in buses and vans transporting children with special needs.
 - e. Use up-to-date sources for more information on buckling up children correctly. Examples are “The Perfect Gift: Your Child’s Safety” or ‘Keep Your Child Safe,’ available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
 - f. Show an educational/motivational video, such as “Don’t Risk Your Child’s Life IX” (Shelness Productions USA), at a parent meeting. Include correct information for buckling up when pregnant.
 - g. Insist on the appropriate safety seat for every child during field trips. It’s the law!
2. Within Head Start:
 - a. Teach children why they need to be buckled up with Bucklebear
 - b. Include information on properly buckling up for each stage in the following programs:
 - 1) Program Orientation
 - 2) Parent Committees
 - 3) Policy Council
 - 4) On Home Visits
 - 5) At Group Socializations
 - 6) Other program events, such as fairs, community festivals
 - c. Ask a CPST (found on SafeKids.org) to help conduct a survey of how children are buckled up by observing activity near your Head Start program at pick-up and drop-off and publicize the results in your program newsletter. (Forms available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.)
 - d. Celebrate Safety Seat Checkup Week.
 - e. Join SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. and help spread the word through business, medical, preschool, law enforcement, and other professional communities.

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