

# SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTING CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY IN YOUR SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM

by Arline S. Dillman, Ph.D.



## A. Parent Education Topic

1. Your local child passenger safety association or AAA Club may be able to help with speakers and/or films.
2. Trained Child Passenger Safety Technicians in your area may be able to provide resources for a parent meeting.
3. Show "Boosters Are For Big Kids" video (K-5) to inform parents; available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

## B. Classroom Applications -- Younger Children

### 1. Discussion with the children

- a. We need to encourage the use of restraints in a positive manner, without frightening the children. Possible approaches are: "Safety belts and safety seats are to keep little people snug, secure, and safe from bumps and bruises." "The safety seat helps, protects, and takes care of you; it keeps you from bumping your head." "This is your special way to ride in the car."
- b. Show the children a picture of a safety seat and explain that all the straps need to be fastened so they are comfortable and safe in the seat. Tell them if there isn't a safety seat, to use the safety belt over their hips, not their stomachs. Also emphasize that the back seat offers more protection than the front.
- c. Obtain a safety seat (borrow from a parent or find a used one) so you can demonstrate with the child in the class. Set up a safety booster with a shoulder and lap belt on a chair so that children can practice using it.
- d. Include car safety in "first-of-the-year" general safety talks. Remind children before every field trip in a car about "automobile manners" -- sitting still and buckling up in the back seat.
- e. By Kindergarten, introduce "Booster Are For Big Kids," an experiential curriculum with homework and classroom activities to teach why and how to use boosters.

## 2. Songs

- a. To the tune of "The Wheels of the Bus Go Round and Round":  
1st verse: The wheels of the car go round and round, etc.  
2nd verse: We're all snug in our safety seats, etc.  
3rd verse: We always sit in the back seat, etc.
- b. To the tune of "Frère Jacques":  
Wear your safety belt, wear your safety belt,  
Every trip, in your car.  
You'll be safer with it, you'll be safer with it,  
So will Mom, so will Dad.
- c. To the tune of "Jingle Bells":  
Buckle up, buckle up,  
Buckle up your belt.  
Every time you're in a car,  
Buckle up your belt.

## 3. Activities

- a. Have each child make a model of a child in a safety seat: an oatmeal carton or shoe box for the safety seat; the "child", a sock doll, a styrofoam head on a tongue depressor, or a pipe cleaner figure; then yarn or ribbon stapled or glued across the body of the seated figure for the harness.
- b. Suggest that the children make a car out of chairs or hollow blocks and use pretend safety belts made with cloth, ribbon, or tape with velcro fastenings.
- c. Remind children to buckle up when playing in a pretend car.

## C. Classroom Applications -- Older Children

1. Use the "Simon Says" game to include Simon Says, "Buckle up your belt."
2. Creative writing
  - a. Make up poems and/or songs about safety seats and belts.
  - b. Make up stories such as: the adventures of a safety seat; cars talking to each other about safety belts; a safety seat that was sad because it wasn't used.
3. Art
  - a. Work with clay, cardboard, cloth, or a combination to design and make models of safety belts and safety seats.
  - b. Make up designs for safety belts and harness straps.

***SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A.** [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)  
800/745-SAFE (English) 800/747-SANO (Spanish)

Part of this material was adapted from a SCAEYC handout and from materials of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. This document was developed by SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. and may be reproduced in its entirety. Important: Call to check if there is a more recent version before reproducing this document.