

# Ideas for PTA Groups to Promote Car Safety for Children

1. Encourage parents of school-age children to:
  - a. Provide a booster seat and/or safety belt for each child on every ride.
  - b. Show older children why they need to be buckled up with a video, such as “Keeping Children Safe in Crashes” or implement “Boosters Are For Big Kids” curriculum.
  - c. Insist on a booster seat and/or safety belt for every child during field trips, Scout/athletic team transportation. It’s the law!
  - d. Work with after-school programs to restrain children in vehicles when they collect the children from schools or take them on field trips.
  - e. Make sure safety belts and appropriate child restraints are used in buses and vans transporting children with special needs.
  - f. Utilize sources of more information on proper child restraint devices, such as “The Perfect Gift: Your Child’s Safety,” available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
  - g. Show an educational/motivational video, such as “Don’t Risk Your Child’s Life IX,” or the “Boosters Are For Big Kids” DVD at a parent meeting.
2. Within the school program:
  - a. For K-3, introduce “Boosters Are For Big Kids” curriculum in classroom, at parent meetings. Covers the 5-Step Test, reasons to use boosters, has homework and classroom activities. Available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
  - b. For 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, introduce “Belt Use Basics” which is part of the “Boosters Are For Big Kids” program.
  - c. Include information on proper restraint use in the following programs:
    - 1) Driver education
    - 2) Family life electives
    - 3) Vocational programs for those who work with children
    - 4) Preschool centers attached to public/private schools
    - 5) Programs for pregnant teenagers
    - 6) Health education classes
  - d. Do a survey of safety belt usage by observing activity near the school in the morning and afternoon and publicize it in the school newsletter. (Forms available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.)
  - e. Sponsor a traffic safety poster and essay contest in the school. Make posters of students’ homework color sheets and have local stores put them up for a week.
  - f. Celebrate Safety Seat Checkup Week.
  - g. Join SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. and help spread the word through business, medical, preschool, law enforcement, and other professional communities.

For more information:

<p><b>SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.</b> P.O. Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003 <a href="http://www.carseat.org">www.carseat.org</a> 310/318-5111, 800/745-SAFE (English), 800/747-SANO (Spanish)</p>
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