

CPS Express

E-News for Child Passenger Safety Technicians

[TOP NEWS](#)

[CEU RESOURCES](#)

[FOR INSTRUCTORS](#)



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

[Recertification](#)

Top News

CPSTs and Scientific Research

More than 39,000 certified CPS technicians serve their communities across the country. A comprehensive literature review of peer-reviewed scientific publications reveals that many CPS technicians have been involved in scientific research since 2001. Technicians serve as service providers, educators and investigators in child passenger safety intervention programs. They conduct educational outreach, provide direct education and hands-on help with proper car seat use, install and educate people about car seats, and

participating in surveys and observations of non-use and misuse of car seats, booster seats and seat belts.

Educators

- In a study to test health care providers' awareness of CPS after an educational intervention, a CPS instructor participated in the training program and delivered a presentation with a 20 minute Q&A ([Ekundayo et al., 2013](#)). In California, technicians conducted classes for individuals cited for violation of law for not using child car safety seats. Three months later, technicians interviewed these violators about their usual and recent safety seats use in order to discover violators' behavior changes ([Agran et al., 2004](#)).

Service Providers

- CPS technicians helped parents install car seats in a proper way. In Michigan, English- and Spanish-speaking technicians volunteered at an inner city fitting station to install car seats properly based on children's height and weight ([Louis et al., 2008](#)). Hospital-based CPS technicians in Boston guided parents to install 131 car seats ([Elliott et al., 2013](#)). In Oregon, caregivers were asked to designate someone to position their newborn and to install/re-install car seats under technicians' guidance ([Hoffman et al., 2016](#)). In Chicago, CPS technicians checked non-use and misuse of child restraint system (CRS) and provided CRS as needed at a Federally Qualified Health Center serving a low-income urban population in September 2001 and September 2003 ([Quinlan et al., 2007](#)).

Investigators

- CPS technicians observed and assessed the use of child restraint systems and collected relevant data. At observational sites, vehicles contained passengers less than 16 years of age were stopped and asked to participate in a survey by a technician ([Bull et al., 2003](#)). At car seat checkup events and hospital-based events, technicians documented information on the child, vehicle, child restraint system and installation characteristics upon arrival to and departure from the events

on a standardized form ([Cicchino et al., 2015](#); [Klinich et al., 2014](#); [Quinlan et al., 2007](#)).

CPSTs are a wonderful community resource and have been instrumental in scientific research and investigation.

Submitted by Zhong Zheng, Safe Kids Worldwide Program Intern (Washington, DC)

Share Your Story

Safe Kids and State Farm are collecting personal stories about why you became involved in child passenger safety, especially if you were directly impacted by a crash. We will use them to promote CPS and CPST certification.

Do you have a story to share? Email it to [Safe Kids](#).

Backless Boosters Outlawed?

You may have heard that backless boosters are being outlawed either here in the U.S. or in Europe. Sound crazy? It is! This rumor is false.

Read [more](#) about the rumor.

What is true? There is talk of new legislation in the United Kingdom that limits backless booster use for smaller children on newly developed boosters. The United Nations must implement the change in law before the European Union (EU) can update the law in Europe. If Britain has left the EU by the time the law is updated, the UK government will be responsible for implementing any new occupant protection laws. That means it may not happen anytime soon.

According to an [article](#) in *The Independent Newspaper*, “The new rules will limit the use of backless booster seats among smaller children, as they are deemed unsafe by experts...all children under 125cm and weighing less than 22kg must have a high-backed booster seat while travelling in a car.”

Here in the U.S., keep kids in an appropriate child seat or booster until they can properly fit in and use an adult seat belt. Backless boosters are safe to use and should always be used according to manufacturer instructions.

Read [more](#) about the proposed changes in the UK.

Car Seat Manufacturer Customer Service: Here for you

Car seat manufacturers have customer service representatives ready to help you with your product and installation questions.

At many car seat companies, customer service centers are staffed with certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians – just like you! So, if you are a CPST calling a car seat company, should you ask to speak with a car seat technician? Sure – if you feel more comfortable knowing that you are speaking to a CPST, feel free to ask. However, even if the representative is not a certified tech, they have been highly trained by the company to respond to questions about that company’s product line. Moreover, they know to get additional help if they need more information to respond to a question.

Keep in mind that you don’t need to make the call for the family. As technicians, we are working to empower caregivers with knowledge about child passenger safety and how to properly use car seats and booster seats. Encourage the caregiver to make the call to customer service on their own. It is their child’s car seat, in their vehicle – who better to get the information about how to use it the right way?

Additionally, most companies have an advocate who acts as their liaison with car seat technicians and instructors in the field. As CPSTs, you have unique access and we love to hear from you. So, if the question that came up during your latest car seat check is one that you are likely to come across again – send us a note. Be descriptive. The more information you can provide, the better we can help you.

If you ever receive a response from customer service that you feel is incorrect, please contact the company’s advocate (if available) before sharing that information with others. Every car seat company works hard to ensure

appropriate, accurate information is provided about its products. We appreciate your assistance in limiting the spread of misinformation out in the field.

So remember, the next time you have a question, the car seat manufacturer should be your first point of contact.

You can find a listing of many company advocates on the [MACPS website](#).

[Car Seat Manufacturer Contact Information](#)

Submitted by Sarah Haverstick, Safety Advocate, Goodbaby International (Miamisburg, Ohio)

Follow Through: Not Just for a Decent Basketball Shot

One of the things that new technicians are taught during a certification course is the importance of saying “I don’t know the answer to that.” With the wide range of available car seats and vehicles, you are sure to encounter situations that are unfamiliar to you when working with a family. When these situations arise, there are a few options.

The first option should be to utilize any resources you have available in the moment. This might be a cell phone, tablet, LATCH manual or another technician. You could call a car seat or vehicle manufacturer directly, check the manufacturer’s website for information, locate other technicians who may have had experience with a similar issue, watch an installation video or find the answer in the current edition of the [LATCH manual](#) or the [car seat manufacturer instruction DVD](#). Including the caregiver while you locate the answer is helpful because it helps them to learn how to utilize different resources on their own for future issues. If they have a smartphone, you could show them how to access information and resources so they can bookmark the page or save the link. As an educator, your goal is to empower the caregiver to be able to correctly use and install their seat – and get answers from quality sources for their next seat.

If you are not able to find the answer, it is important to make sure you let the caregiver know that you will attempt to find the answer and contact them once you have. Don’t forget to follow up! If you are unable to find the answer, you

should still let the caregiver know. Be sure to get their contact information so that you can share the information once it is received. If you are not comfortable sharing your personal information, consider setting up an email address that can be used exclusively for CPS-related correspondence.

When working in the field, it is helpful to keep a list of resources readily available for situations that require extra steps. This list below is not all-inclusive, but is a great start to building your resources. Keeping this list in a note in your smartphone is one way to make sure you are always prepared.

- [Less Common Situations](#)
- [Key CPST Reminders](#)
- [Car Seat Manufacturers](#)
- [Vehicle Manufacturers](#)
- [Installation Job Aids](#)

Submitted by Jami Eklund, Safe Kids Worldwide (Massillon, Ohio)

CPST Month: Stick a Pin in It

May seems far away, but we know that planning a course takes time. So far, nine courses are active and ready for folks to register! Every year, some courses are cancelled due to poor registration. Register your course(s) early and make the most of it! Techs can help out, too! Consider helping out the instructor team behind the scenes. Interested? Reach out to a local Lead Instructor: Using FIND A TECH search, enter your state, select for status = Instructor and check the Lead Instr. box.

All members of the instructor team will get a special, limited edition thank you pin from Safe Kids. If you are a tech assistant, ask the Lead Instructor to send us an email letting us know as soon as the course is finalized and you'll get a pin, too. We just have to know as soon as the course ends and we'll include you!

REMINDER: MACPS Grants

The Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety (MACPS) is providing grants to be used for scholarships to local, state, regional or national

conferences. The grant award will be made to the conference, not individual CPSTs. Funding will be limited to one conference award per [NHTSA Region](#).

Go online for the [application](#) (deadline 1/31/2017) and more [information](#). Feel free to [email](#) the MACPS if you any questions.

CEU Resources

This section provides information on nationally available continuing education opportunities. We are not able to include information on state or local conferences, training or other technical updates if they cannot be made available nationally. This information is provided as a resource only. Events and activities listed here are not endorsed by Safe Kids unless otherwise noted.

CPS Express CEU Corner Submissions: Please e-mail the necessary information (in the format below) to [Kerry Chausmer](#).

Conferences

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

[Lifesavers Traffic Safety Conference](#)

Charlotte, NC

March 26-28, 2017

[KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Denver, Colo.

August 31 – September 2, 2017

Online Courses

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge. [Learn more](#)

Upcoming Live Webinars

Troubleshoot to avoid problems: [Test your connection now](#)

[Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group?](#)

[Can I use my smartphone?](#)

Lead Instructors: Before, During and After **

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Car Seat Manufacturer Update Goodbaby International: Evenflo, GB, Urbini and CYBEX

Thursday, January 19, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Safe Sleep and CPS: Recommendations and Policies

Thursday, February 2, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Fall 2016

Thursday, February 16, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Chicco

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Effective Communication with Adult Learners **

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

More webinars coming soon! Mid-month updates posted on [Facebook](#).

** Not eligible for CPS CEUs but is eligible for the Community Education requirement

For Instructors

Special Webinar for Lead Instructors

Please join us for a webinar, [Lead Instructors: Before, During and After](#), on January 10 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET. Learn tips and tricks as well as share your ideas and successes. This webinar is not eligible for CPS CEUs, but you can apply it to the Community Education requirement.

[Register](#) today.

What do I need to know about scheduling a Certification Course?

Instructor teams may be challenged to be creative when scheduling classes to accommodate special requests, instructors' calendars or location availability. In some situations, severe weather may force the team to delay or postpone the remainder of the class. You have ALL KINDS of flexibility when designing your course agenda! You can add time to hands on and practice but you can't change the PPTs or edit the curriculum. You must have at least 2 instructors teaching the entire time. The course is tough—it takes a team!

Here are some tips that may be helpful in scheduling classes:

- Let agencies know that classes may need to be planned three or four months ahead of time to secure a location and pull an instructor team together.
- To help with planning and promotion, offer classes at the same time each year, such as one every December and another in May. May is a great month to schedule a course...it's CPST Month!
- Consider the pros and cons of consecutive vs. nonconsecutive days. It may be difficult for some agencies to have staff out of the office or field in consecutive days, but they may be able to do two days one week and the remaining time the following week or one day a week until the class is completed. It may also be that the location is not available on consecutive days.
 - All courses must be completed within six months of the start date.
 - When class days are not consecutive, allow time for adequate review as candidates return to class.

- Plan for storage of equipment between class days.
- Based on the candidates that you want in the course and the comfort level of the instructor team, class length can be three, three and a half, four days or longer, if need be.
 - Class day cannot be any more than 10 hours.
 - Half days can be at the beginning or the end of the class.
 - Starting class on the afternoon of the first day allows candidates a break so they don't have to learn all about vehicle system in one day. It gives them time to process the new information without being totally overwhelmed. By starting with a half day, the first quiz will be on day two, which may relieve some anxiety. This also allows time for instructors to set up the room the day of instead of the night before.

Thinking of the needs of your agencies, team and location in scheduling a class can be a challenge and being flexible and creative has its rewards.

Read the [FAQ](#) online.

Learn more at [Course Administration FAQs](#)

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, Fla.)

Crunched for Time?

Safe Kids can usually accommodate requests for expedited courses. Please add the course online using dates the system will accept and then email Safe Kids (Kerry: kchausmer@safekids.org) with the Course ID and actual dates and times. We will confirm when the course profile is updated.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Safe Kids Worldwide
CPS Certification
1255 23rd Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20037
cps.certification@safekids.org
Phone: 877-366-8154 (toll free)
Fax: 202-393-2072

Ideas and Article Submissions

Advocates and manufacturers are welcome to submit articles, or suggestions for articles, to the CPS Express!

Send your ideas and submissions to kchausmer@safekids.org.

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

[Policies and
Procedures
Manual](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Customer Service
Survey](#)

[Contact Us](#)



Program Partners



Program Sponsor



[National CPS Certification Training](#) is a program of [Safe Kids Worldwide](#), which is the certifying body and responsible for managing all aspects of the program.

1255 23RD STREET, NW, SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20037 | PHONE: 202-662-0639

© 2016 SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

empowered by  salsa