Why is Child Passenger Safety Important?

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children in the United States.

In 2005, over 1,400 children ages 14 years and younger died in crashes, with an additional 200,000 children sustaining injuries. In most cases, these injuries could have been prevented if a child passenger safety seat had been properly used.

Unfortunately, statistics show that over 85% of child safety seats are improperly installed. Ensuring your child’s car seat is correctly installed is critical to their safety.

Young children restrained in a child safety seat have an 80 percent lower risk of fatal injury than those who are unrestrained.

So, make sure your child is properly secured in their seat every time they ride in your vehicle. Not only does it make sense...it’s the law.

Be a good role model. Always wear your seat belt.

The Child Passenger Safety Check is held in the garage on the grounds of Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children

Directions to the Hospital

From the North (Route 202)
Take Route 202 South. You will see the AstraZeneca campus on the right. Make a right at the light onto Powder Mill Road (Route 141). Driving under a walkway overpass, stay on this road and it will become Children’s Drive and take you through the hospital gates.

From the South (I-95)
From I-95 North, take Exit 8 – Concord Pike/Route 202N exit. Stay to the left. Once on Route 202, get in the far left lane. Turn left at the 3rd light onto Powder Mill Road (Route 141). Driving under a walkway overpass, stay on this road and it will become Children’s Drive and take you through the hospital gates.

From the West
Take Route 141 North (Barley Mill Road), crossing the Tyler McConnell Bridge. Turn left at the DuPont Experimental Station, staying on Route 141 North (Powder Mill Road). Travel a mile and a half, making a right at the second light onto Children’s Drive. The hospital is straight ahead through the gates.

To the Child Passenger Safety Check
Take the main road around to the back, passing the main entrance on your left. After the main entrance, you will come to a stop sign. Go straight through the stop sign to a concrete wall. Immediately after the wall, make a left turn. The employee parking garage is straight ahead. Go straight until you reach the orange cones. The Child Passenger Safety station will be on your right.
Child Passenger Safety Tips

- Make sure your child is buckled in every time they ride in the car.
- Infants must be placed in a rear-facing seat from birth until they're at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds. Toddlers (older than 1 year and between 20 and 40 pounds) may use a forward-facing seat. Children who weigh between 40 and 80 pounds need to be placed in a booster seat.
- Be sure that the seat you choose fits your child — a smaller baby can slip out of a seat that’s too large.
- The back seat is the safest place for a child to be. It is estimated that children ages 12 and under are up to 36 percent less likely to die in a crash if they are in the rear seat.
- Accept a used seat with caution. Never accept a seat that's more than 7 years old or one that was in a crash (even if it looks OK). Avoid seats with obvious wear and tear, missing parts or lacking the manufacturer’s date and model number (you’ll have no way to know about recalls). Also, check the seat for the manufacturer’s recommended “expiration date.”

State Laws for Child Passenger Safety (CPS)

Delaware Law

Children from birth through age 7 or 65 pounds, whichever comes first, must be properly secured according to manufacturer’s instructions in a child safety seat or booster seat.

Children from age 8 or 66 pounds up to age 16 must be properly restrained in a seat belt.

No child younger than 12 years of age and less than 65” in height shall occupy the front passenger seat of any vehicle with an active passenger-side airbag.

If a police officer pulls you over for not having your child in an appropriate child safety seat, the fine is $25.

Over 85% of child safety seats are improperly installed.

Pennsylvania Law

Children under the age of 8 must be securely fastened in an approved child restraint/booster when riding in a motor vehicle.

All drivers transporting children 4 years of age or older, but under 8 years are responsible for restraining them in a seat belt system and an appropriately fitting child booster seat.

Violators may be fined up to a maximum of $100 plus court costs.

New Jersey Law

Children from birth through age 8 or 80 pounds, whichever comes first, must be properly secured according to manufacturer’s instructions in a child safety seat or booster seat.

If an officer pulls you over for not having your child in an appropriate child safety seat, the fine is $25.

Learn how to install your child’s seat with a trained CPS technician.

Alfred I. duPont Hospital offers FREE CPS checks on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. The check takes about 30 minutes per seat. A reservation is required.

Call (302) 651-5437 to make an appointment.