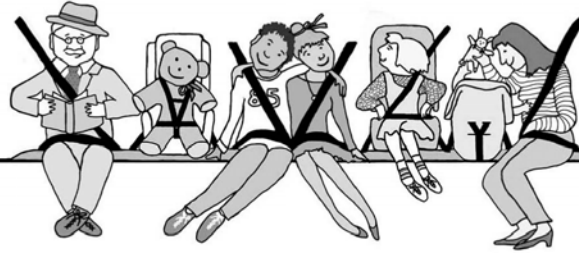


SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 27, No. 5



September 2006

Another Kids' Plates Grand Slam

SBS USA is delighted to report that our California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)-funded pilot program for training social workers from the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) has been recognized by Kids' Plates (*see story below*) as a model program. The initial program took months of collaborative discussion with DCFS to come up with a way to reach extremely busy workers.

To help DCFS quantify the program, SBS USA staff assessed how current workers would choose and use the agency-owned safety seats. Of 38 experienced workers involved, all had errors involving inappropriate choices of seats or installations. The agency has a special challenge as each worker uses his/her own vehicle, making the project rather like a safety seat checkup.

The initial educational focus was on current workers. After two sessions, we refocused on new hires. Response has been enthusiastic, especially since each worker in the team of three installs agency seats for four different age/size children per car, developing confidence and competence. This helps create awareness which leads to discovery of misuse by families that might have been missed before.

The \$25,000 Kids' Plates grant will enable SBS USA to offer 10 additional sessions to DCFS workers when the OTS pilot program funding is exhausted. The grant will permit staff to offer policy suggestions and evaluate the safety seats in all 19 offices in the county, again extending the effort under the OTS grant.

Kids' Plates Needs Your Support

To ensure continuing funds for injury prevention through Kids' Plates grants, consider adding a heart, plus sign, hand, or star to your CA license plate. You can add the symbol to show you care for kids for an extra \$20; for \$50, you can design a unique message. Go to www.carseat.org, let SBS USA send you the details, or check out your renewal packet from the Dept. of Motor Vehicles for details. If your state has no program to generate such funds, check with us on how to go about establishing it.

Good News for Child Care Providers

SBS USA received welcome word that Kids' Plates funding is available for a pilot program of hands-on training for child care providers. More families are entrusting day care and after-school sites with driving their kids, but given the typical incorrect use rate and limited availability of hands-on training resources, this could be a problem. The project will permit a joint effort of two resource and referral organizations in Los Angeles County and SBS USA to improve availability of hands-on training.

Child care providers often are strapped for time to allow for continuing education. However, Crystal Stairs and Connections for Children, both more than 25 years old, have clear track records of recruiting their members to conferences and other training.

The project will enable our staff to offer half-day sessions focused on enabling providers to fit their safety seats in their vehicles. We also will help design and publicize transportation policies. In giving direct feedback to day care workers who are transporting kids, the project aims to protect kids and reduce liability for these vitally needed professionals. The \$25,000 project ends in June, 2007.

Two Thumbs Up Award

Kohl's Department Stores and Childrens Hospital/Los Angeles created the Two Thumbs Up Award to recognize non-profit organizations that generate healthy lifestyles for children.

SBS USA appreciates receiving the inaugural award on June 3 at an event held at Kohl's Department Store. The award was made even more meaningful because one of our 15 founders was a nurse at Childrens Hospital where we also held our 2nd Educator Workshop in October 1980 and many of our regular meetings in the early years.

Ellen Zaman and Olga Taylor, CHLA staff, joined Kohl's representatives in making the event memorable.

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New Products

Orbit Baby has introduced the Orbit Infant System, including an infant safety seat, detachable base, and stroller base. Both bases have a round, metal hub where the seat can be "docked" from any angle (it faces rearward in the car, either way on the stroller). The car base will accommodate a future toddler seat.

Sunshine Kids has added a second convertible. The original, Radian65 (rear facing 5-33 lb. and forward to 65 lb.) and new Radian80 (up to 80 lb.), feature steel alloy frames and V-shaped top tether for rear and forward facing uses and fold flat. They have three crotch slots and five sets of shoulder slots, all usable forward.

New and revamped boosters:

Britax Monarch (approximately 30-100 lb.) features removable back, recline-able backrest, adjustable width and headrest. **Compass** now has two boosters (30-100 lb.) with a non-removable back and adjustable headrest. The new B510 has a higher back and deeper side wings than the original B500, now B505. Both fold flat.

Jané USA makes 2 boosters, Indy and Indy Plus (30-80 lb.) with non-removable back and headrest adjustable for height and width. The Plus model has rigid lower LATCH connectors, adjustable side wings, and recline adjustment.

Safe Traffic System has announced that Ride Safer Vests may be used with booster seats, giving more flexibility for their use.

THANK YOU

- \$28,200** American Honda Motors
(2006 membership year)
- \$500** Safety Angel International
- \$200** San Diego SAFE KIDS
- \$140** Marisa Gonzalez
- \$125** Pennsylvania State Police
Southeastern UT Health Dept
- \$100** Accident Reconstruction
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Recycling Seats to Avoid Landfill Burdens

Outdated or otherwise unusable child safety restraints consume a significant amount of landfill space, take as long as 1000 years to decompose, and may leach dangerous chemicals in the process. Recycling these seats will help prevent these problems and give the plastic and metal components new life.

The seats need to be taken apart and sorted into metal and plastic parts. This can be time-consuming, and some skill is required, especially to remove the rivets. A cooperative program in PA, involving the Berks Co. Prison and the Mount Penn Rotary Club, has recycled about 60 restraints so far. SBS USA, Graco Children's Products, Inc., and Recycling Services, Inc. assisted in the establishment of this program.

Rotarians dismantle and cut up the restraints at their annual child safety event, with the exception of removing the rivets. Tools used in the disassembly include screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, nippers, and safety gear, such as goggles and masks. The seats are cut in half with a reciprocating saw to prevent further use of the plastic shell. The Rotarians work in a sectioned-off area adjoining the main safety seat checkup area to demonstrate to the public the benefits of recycling the seats. The prison picks up the grossly dismantled shells after the event. Inmates use a rivet removal tool and a drill to finish the dismantling process. The metal and plastic components are recycled on site into needed items. This program benefits the entire community and the environment in addition to providing skill training and work experience for the inmates. *By Donna Ott, MS, PT*

Calendar

Educator Workshop & Safety Seat Checkup

***10/31**, 8:30-5:00. Miller Family Health Education Center, Long Beach, CA. 6 CEU's for nurses.

***11/1**, 10:00-2:00. Long Beach.

***11/15**, 10:00-2:00. Los Angeles.

Volunteers needed 9:00-3:00. Co-sponsored by City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau.

Workshop and checkup funded by CA OTS; no fee. Call 310-222-6860 for checkup appointment or to volunteer.

CPS Certification

***11/8, 9, 13, 14**. 8:00-5:30. Required checkup Nov. 15 (location TBA) Class fee: \$1050 including Safe Kids fee. (Scholarships available thanks to Nissan North America gift to SBS USA.)

Certification Renewal

***11/21**, 8:00-5:00. Class fee: \$170 including Safe Kids fee

(Location for both Certification Courses: Los Angeles, CA 90019. Contact 626/968-6555 or ckim@carseat.org)

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SafetyBeltSafe News

September 2006

Petition to Maintain Belt Lockability

Apparently, many, including National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) staff, have not focused on a current section of FMVSS 208 which, on September 1, 2012, sunsets the requirement that belts can be locked manually in locations with LATCH lower anchors. Although, when added, this seemed logical, changes in CPS are generating resistance to its going into effect.

Today, with many more safety seats that are designed for the over-40 lb. set and the continuing increases in booster use, the manually locking belt has important uses besides installing a safety seat for our youngest passengers. Buoyed by support from Kidz in Motion Conference attendees, SBS USA and *Safe Ride News* Publications are leading a campaign to maintain lockability in all locations except the driver's seat and have compiled a summary of statistical data in support. Besides the generation of state laws, all of which require child safety seats for kids at least to age 3, there are increasing segments of the child population whose emotional and/or physical challenges make it much better to have them snugly restrained by belts that don't only lock on impact OR for whom specialized restraints are needed which are designed for those weighing more than the designated 48 lb. level of LATCH bars. These kids depend on the belt lockability and cannot necessarily move to a different seating position because other children may need the center shoulder-lap belt.

The vast majority of newly minted "booster kids" are used to the snug security of a full harness and are too young to keep an emergency locking shoulder-lap belt tight themselves. They may fall asleep, be tempted to slide their upper bodies or themselves from the confines—just a few examples of the problem. Even police departments apparently are using the switchable belts to restrain prisoners in back and their high-tech equipment up front, providing a welcome extra way to reduce likely missiles in a collision. Vehicle manufacturers are being encouraged to maintain lockability, regardless of the standard.

Visit www.carseat.org to download information, petitions, and show your attitude toward this loss of manual lockability. Already conference and training leaders are taking the packet for their participants to review.

Last Chance for Lapsed Techs

According to the CPS Express, "Any people with expired certifications wishing to take advantage of the Renewal Course must attend & pass hands-on skills tests by 12/31/06" to re-take the written exam. See calendar (p. 3) for details. Renewal Course is limited to CPS Techs still active in the field but whose certifications have lapsed.

It's Official! SBS News subscribers can apply for 1 CEU toward re-certification as a Technician every year by requesting their code from SBS USA.