



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# GEORGIA TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION INSTITUTE

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety

# Tech Talk

The Georgia Resource for Child Passenger Safety Technicians

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Always Remember  
*Buckle Up!*

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## GTIPI Offers First Spanish Class

By: Steve Davis, GTIPI Director

June 3, 2004 was a historic day for GTIPI and child passenger safety education in Georgia. Marilu Montalvo and Mary Ann Robinson delivered GTIPI's first-ever child passenger safety class in Spanish. The class, *Riding Safely in Child Care*, was hosted by Gloria Sierra Rivera, President of ALEI (Hispanic Child Care Association) at the International Village Sheltering Arms in Chamblee. Twenty-five participants registered, but thirty-eight were on-hand for the class and, in the true spirit of GTIPI, no one was turned away.

As GTIPI Director, I was struck by the warmth of the reception we received. Excitement and appreciation for this type of program in their community was obvious. That, coupled with their enthusiasm, and the enthusiasm of Marilu and Mary Ann, made for a memorable evening.

This monumental event was the result of considerable effort on behalf of Marilu and our CPS educational staff. Marilu joined GTIPI in January to fill a position designated to develop outreach for CPS to the Hispanic community. Her first day on the job, Marilu arrived with a suitcase in hand to attend a CPST class in Tifton. This was her first exposure to CPS. By the end of the week, she was, like the rest of us, a passionate advocate for our mission to make sure that every child in Georgia is properly secured when riding in a motor vehicle.

This class marked a beginning for outreach to Hispanic communities. Our goal is to offer the Spanish version of *Riding Safely in Child Care* in venues throughout the state. GTIPI also plans to offer a Spanish CPST class in the next grant year to broaden this vital initiative. We are very fortunate to have Marilu Montalvo on staff at GTIPI. **She is making a difference!**



## Current Child Restraint Law

By: Griggs Wall, Regional Coordinator

Recently, at a child safety seat checkpoint, I observed a vehicle with a small child riding in a lap and shoulder belt. The child appeared to be too young for the vehicle safety belt only. Upon investigation, I learned the child was only 3 1/2 years old. I explained the Georgia law, which requires children under the age

of 6 to be secured in an approved child safety seat. The driver was very surprised and said another law enforcement agency had told her that the law was for children 3 years of age and younger.

A CPS Technician's responsibility is to insure current information is provided to parents and the motoring public. GTIPI encourages all CPS Technicians to monitor the materials distributed by their agency to insure that correct information/

materials are used. At staff meetings or at roll calls, spend a few minutes discussing the current Georgia Law.

The new Child Restraint Law became effective July 1, 2004. To find out more details about the new law, visit GTIPI's website located at [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org) for more information on the changes to the child restraint law (40.8.76) and the seat belt law (40.8.86.1). The actual language of the law can be located at [www.legis.state.ga.us](http://www.legis.state.ga.us)

## Forms? What Forms???

By: *Melanie Elliot, CPS Educator*

We live in a world where paperwork stacks up to become mountains. Even with computers that produce a "paperless" society, there is one issue that must be addressed dealing with child safety seats.

As a CPS Instructor, I have seen many changes over the last five or six years. Even when change is for the better, often we balk at the idea of altering our way of doing things. Could it be because of age, or perhaps I like to think I am right most of the time.

I can remember checking child safety seats at a rate of about 30 an hour. I thought nothing of climbing into a vehicle, installing the seat and sending the parent on their way—totally oblivious to what to do next time the seat was moved. Educating the parent was not our concern. This was, of course, prior to becoming a CPS technician. My education on CPS was by word of mouth.

CPST classes were needed by those of

us checking safety seats. Most of us had the same thought in mind—doing the right thing and not just what we felt was best. Along with these classes came the news that a check-off sheet was required documentation when inspecting safety seats. WHOA!

It would time to fill out all that paperwork! It would take forever to do just one safety seat. I just couldn't see how that was would out for the best. But, as I have learned, one small form is the key to a successful safety seat inspection. During a CPST class, these check-off forms are provided to you for the final seat check event. The class uses them and they are kept in case they are ever needed in the future.

As an instructor, I am concerned that many organizations or agencies do not have a check sheet with their own disclaimer on it. In class, we stress documenting everything on paper when a seat is checked. This documentation validates what the technician has done and the education given to the parent. It also helps to record that the parent was

the last one to install the child safety seat and what questions they had.

As an individual or an organization we should consult an attorney to develop a proper disclaimer statement. However, using forms from another agency may not be appropriate. Samples of check-off forms are available through GTIPI and easy to reproduce.

As someone who bucks change, I admit this is one form that is a must. I don't check 30 safety seats in an hour any more, it's more like one or two. Two is good! However, I know that I am handling each inspection in a professional way to educate parents or caregivers in the proper installation of their child restraint.

I have a notebook and a folder where I file these check-off forms. I may never need to use them, and those children I worked with will grow up safe and wear their safety belts properly, but I keep them just in case.

Is there a form for safety belts??????

## The Seat Beat - New Products

By: *Marilyn Montalvo, CPS Educator*

*NOTE: This column is for information only and is not intended as an endorsement for any product. Descriptions in the article are those of the manufacturer.*

Compass B500 Folding, Adjustable Booster Safety Seat is the only folding booster seat. It is lightweight, ideal for travel and storage. Its deep and supportive seat back stays fully enclosed in any position. The extra wide seat offers a better fit for larger children. The back extends to a height of 29 inches.

This seat is easy to use and more convenient for parents when their older child can buckle themselves in with less chance of misuse because there are no belts to rethread or parts to lose.

The Compass B500 fits children who are 30-100 lbs, 38" to 57" tall, and about 3-10 years of age. It meets or exceeds FMVSS 213 and "Cool Kid" approved!

In Georgia, the booster seat is available for purchase only through the internet at [www.compassbaby.com](http://www.compassbaby.com),



### **Guide to Booster Promotion**

**Best Practices for Promoting Booster Seat Use—A How-To Guide Based on Community Demonstration Projects**, recently published by NHTSA, is based on the experiences of five community projects. The guide includes research findings and lessons learned, as well as resources.

You can find it at:  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CPS](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CPS)

# The Best Location for a Child Restraint

By: Mary Ann Robinson, CPS Educator

When working with parents and caregivers during an educational program or at child safety seat checkpoints, we often address the question of where is the best location for a child safety seat.

Some points to consider are:

- NEVER, NEVER, EVER transport an infant rear-facing in front of an active airbag. And an incorrectly installed forward-facing child safety seat can be just as deadly in front of an active airbag.
- The back seat is generally the safest position, if a child safety seat can be installed securely.
- The center rear is preferable. However, if the seat has a hump, a secure installation may not be possible.
- Side-facing vehicle seats can not be used for a child restraint.

- Remember the use of a tether can help create a more secure installation on seats so equipped.
- If a tight fit (one inch test) is not achieved, try another seating position.
- Take into consideration the other members of the family. Each member of the family must be riding in the safest possible manner.

Remember to refer caregivers to the vehicle owner's manual for directions on how to install the child safety seat in their vehicle. This is very important as the instructions may list seating locations that are not recommended for child safety seat installation.

Of course, in addition, you should remind them to always consult the child safety seat instruction book as well to be sure the child safety seat is used correctly.

Ultimately, the parent or caregiver must make the final decision as to where the children should ride in a vehicle so long as they do not violate Georgia law.

***"Seat belt hugs make you feel good."***



Plans are in the works for a national child passenger safety technician conference. The conference, KIDS IN MOTION, is being planned for late summer 2005 in Orlando, Florida. Registration will be limited to 1,000 people. For more information, visit the website [www.kidzinmotion.org](http://www.kidzinmotion.org) or [www.ridesafegeorgia.org/child safety seat/CPST Resources](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org/child_safety_seat/CPST_Resources).

## P.R.I.D.E. for Georgia Technicians

By: Mindy Linton, Regional Coordinator

During my GTIPI travel adventures, I often meet Techs who express an interest in knowing more about PRIDE. Never mind the fact that I usually initiate the conversation, since I think that PRIDE is such a wonderful program...

"What is PRIDE," you ask. See, it's happening again. PRIDE, an acronym for Parents Reducing Incidents of Driver Error, is a long-overdue program created in response to the tragic fact that annually, in Georgia, we needlessly lose an average of 200 of our teenagers to traffic crash-related fatalities. Thousands more are injured. Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death and injury to teens in Georgia. One in four teens will be involved in a crash during the 1<sup>st</sup> year of driving and inexperience is usually a factor. These teens are the older models of the children that the CPS technicians have been helping to

ride safely since they were babies. Now, they need you again. That's where PRIDE comes in. The PRIDE program is a 2-hour class offered to parents and their new drivers (usually ages 14-16, but any age driver will benefit). Most parents realize that they are not prepared to teach their teens to drive. The PRIDE program is designed to help them learn how to manage the 40 hours of supervised practice driving now required by Georgia law. How can you be certified as a PRIDE trainer? I was hoping you would ask.

**[WWW.CARSEAT.ORG](http://WWW.CARSEAT.ORG)**

Find the latest federal regulations and state CPS laws at the Safety-BeltSafe U.S.A. web site located at [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org).

The most recent version of FMVSS 213 and 225 are posted, along with published amendments in the Federal Register, on the web at [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org).



*Learn how you can help*  
**Georgia Teens RIDE WITH P.R.I.D.E.**

Visit GTIPI's website at [www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org)  
 or call 1-800-342-9819.

**The CPST T-Shirts have arrived!**

Be the first to place your order—  
we have limited supplies!

Call 800-342-9819 to place your order.

M-L-XL- \$10.00

XXL-XXXL-\$12.00



The 2004 CPS Technician Survey was mailed in June. If you have not done so, please take 5 minutes to provide us with your input. This information will help us better support your efforts.

**Available Online Resources:**

- Georgia Teens Ride with P.R.I.D.E. Schedule*
- 2004 CPST Training Schedule & Application*
- Resource Materials Order Form*
- Saved-By-The Belt Club Application*
- Update your Technician Information*
- Find/submit Seat Check Events in your area*
- Download child safety seat registration forms*

**Remember - We are on the Web!**  
[www.ridesafegeorgia.org](http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org)



**GEORGIA TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION INSTITUTE**

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Brought to you by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety...

**Summer H.E.A.T. Advisory... Cool It!**

Slow Down... Buckle up... Sober Up... or Georgia Law Enforcement will COOL you down...  
Enjoy the summer and obey the law.



*Funded by a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety*