



GTIPI

GEORGIA TRAFFIC INJURY PREVENTION INSTITUTE

Tech Talk

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Special Needs Training Scheduled for March

Beth Bartlett, GTIPI, and Sharon Conrad, DHR

Do you help children with special health care needs at seat check events, inspection stations, or in your daily work? If you would like to better serve these children and their families, come learn more about special needs transportation on March 12 and 13.

"Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs" is an enrichment course for certified CPSTs only. Developed by the [Automotive Safety Program](#) at Riley Hospital for Children in Indiana, the training combines classroom lecture and discussion with hands-on exercises.

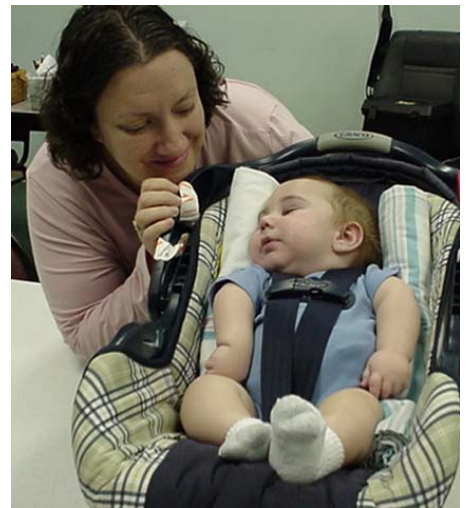
Participants will be introduced to medical conditions that can affect restraint selection and have the chance to investigate and install specialized restraint systems. The training concludes

with an exam that evaluates your ability to assess appropriate restraints and to demonstrate proper use and installation.

GTIPI will be hosting the training in Conyers at the Rockdale County Parker Road facility near the GTIPI offices. The instructors for the class are Ute Chavers, Martin Army Community Hospital Public Health Nursing; Sharon Conrad, DHR – Division of Public Health, Injury Prevention Section; and Angela Johnson, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Class size is limited, so e-mail bbartlet@uga.edu to request an application form. Completed forms will be accepted until February 15.

Safe Kids CPS Certification has approved this course for 6 CPS CEUs. Approval for continuing nursing education is pending.



10-Month-Old Child and His Mother assisted by GTIPI CPST Instructors who completed the "Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs" training

CEU Workshop: Changes for 2008

Mary Ann Robinson, CPST Instructor

Your CPS skills can be of great benefit to your community, family, friends, and employer. To keep your certification current, you must re-certify

every two years. GTIPI is developing a new CEU workshop that will roll out in 2008. The workshop provides 3 CEUs from technical updates. Resources will also be available to earn the additional 3 CEUs needed for re-certification.

After lunch, a child safety seat check will be held to benefit the local community. This will enable technicians to be involved in educating the parent or caregiver on the proper use of child safety seats. The seat check will meet the Community Education requirement for re-certification and allow a CPST Instructor to verify the seat installations also needed for re-certification.

2008 CEU Workshops

- Statesboro February 21
- Peachtree City March 20
- Rome April 24
- Athens June 26
- Conyers August 7
- Forsyth August 19

To sign up for a CEU Workshop, go to www.ridesafegeorgia.org and follow the Child Passenger Safety links. There is no charge for the workshop.

For more information on re-certification requirements, visit the Safe Kids Worldwide certification Web site at www.safekids.org/certification.

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GTIPI is funded by a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.



Saved by the Belt in the NHTSA Family

Melba King, CPST Instructor

This Saved by the Belt story comes from one of our very own: Connie Beasley, NHTSA Region IV Child Passenger Safety Coordinator. Connie's daughter Rebekah and granddaughter Katherine were involved in a crash on August 2, and Connie is convinced that correct use of a seat belt and child safety seat saved their lives.



Rebekah's SUV

Rebekah's SUV was hit on the right front passenger side, which caused it to flip onto the driver's side. It then skidded in the road and flipped back upright. Rebekah had several injuries, including cuts to her hand from shattered glass, airbag burns on her forearm and chin, and significant bruising to her shoulder, ribs, hip, and leg.

Three-month-old Katherine, however, had no injuries. The attending ER physician told Rebekah she had done everything right by correctly restraining her baby in an infant seat in the back seat. Before leaving the hospital, the family purchased a new child safety seat and properly disposed of the one involved in the crash.

A few months before the crash, Connie's daughter and son-in-law met with Sharon Conrad, a CPST Instructor with the DHR Injury Prevention Section.

Sharon taught them how to properly restrain Katherine and educated them on non-regulated products, projectiles, and other life-saving information.

Connie and her family are thankful to CPSTs like Sharon who have educated parents across the country resulting in countless children's lives being saved. Never underestimate the importance of your work as a Child Passenger Safety Technician. You really are making a difference!



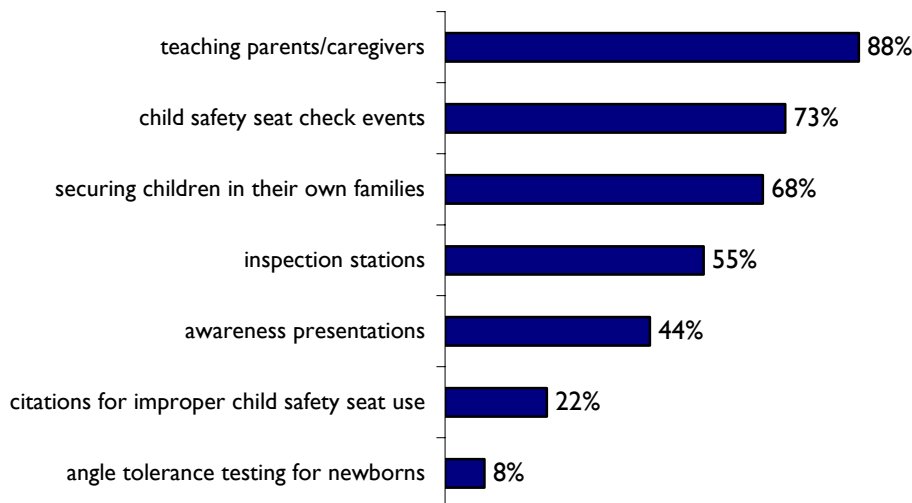
Connie Beasley and her granddaughter, Katherine

2007 Injury Prevention Survey Results

Thank you to all the CPS Technicians and Instructors who responded to GTIPI's annual injury prevention survey this fall. We were delighted to learn how much you have been using your technician training (see chart below).

We also appreciate the feedback about our educational programs and other GTIPI resources. Be assured that we will use this information to determine how best to support you as CPSTs in Georgia.

How Are Georgia CPSTs Using Their Training?



(CPSTs could choose more than one.)

Booster Seat Winners

Ten names were randomly selected from 335 responses. The winners are:

Kelly Buddenhagen
Gilmer County EMS

Laura Cleary
American Red Cross/Safe Kids

Jennifer Cooley
Dade County Sheriff's Office

Angela Gifford
MCGHI

Milford Howard
Warner Robins Police Department

Carl Maddox
Henry County Police Department

Sherry Minchew
Upson Regional Medical Center/EMS

Douglas Rogers
Griffin Police Department

David Truelove
Hall County Fire Services

James Turk
Coffee Regional Medical Center/EMS

**Call GTIPI at 800-342-9819
to claim your seat!**

Are You Using a Seat Check Form?

Mary Ann Robinson, CPST Instructor

As a certified technician, you have a critical role to play in educating parents and caregivers on best practice recommendations for safe transportation of their children. One of the essential items for CPS inspections is a well-designed inspection form.

Consistent use of a standardized CPS checklist will help ensure the quality of every CPS inspection. Standardized checklists require the parent or caregiver to sign the form and acknowledge the advice, education, and information they received. Most standardized forms include a well-written waiver or release of liability. All completed forms should be collected and retained by the technician or event coordinator.

When using a seat check form, you will gather essential information about

the vehicle and passengers riding in child safety seats. There is a place on the form to list seat information. Be sure to use the most current recall list. Document how the seat arrives, including misuse of the seat, corrections made, and installation education you provided to the parent or caregiver.

You can download a generic seat check form in English or Spanish from the Safe Kids certification Web site. Be sure to add your agency's legal disclaimer to the empty text box before using the form. When a family arrives with

two child safety seats, you can check both seats on one form.

Remember, parents and caregivers that attend inspection events want to be sure their children are properly restrained and well protected. By using a seat check form, you are documenting what you saw, what you said, and what you and the parent or caregiver did. ALWAYS use a seat check form when inspecting a child safety seat!

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY CHECKLIST

INSTRUCTIONS: Use blue, black ink or #2 pencil only. Do not write in the margins. Submit only originals to SKW.
 Fill in boxes, one letter per box: 1 2 M A P L E S T Fill in circles like this: ● Not ☒

Driver's First Name	Driver's Last Name
Street Address	

Safe Kids Generic Car Seat Checklist
 available at www.safekids.org/certification/resources/forms.html

New Dorel Seats

Mary Ann Robinson, CPST Instructor

Dorel has a new line of child safety seats on the market that were originally part of their European line. One such seat is the Maxi-Cosi Priori. This convertible seat is designed to accommodate children 5 to 40 pounds and 19 to 43 inches. Some of its features include a shoulder belt lock-off and an "Independent Recline System" that adjusts the seat to four positions while the child is in the seat. The average retail price is \$150.

Interesting new items that will be unique to this seat include a harness guard door that must be opened to change the harness straps and a quarter turn of the foot to change the recline angle. Arrows must face up on the connectors for LATCH installation.

More information on this new seat and others in the Maxi-Cosi line can be found at www.maxi-cosi.com.



Maxi-Cosi Priori
 Photo from maxi-cosi.com

Can YOU Spot the Misuse?

Beth Bartlett, CPST Instructor

This type of combination seat should have a metal splitter plate in the back. Instead, the harness straps are tied together (see photo, right). Perhaps the owner removed the harness straps for cleaning or to change them to a higher set of slots for a growing child — but didn't know how to replace them correctly.

Key points to remember:

- A complete check requires taking the seat out of the vehicle. Simply inspecting the seat from the front would not have uncovered this misuse.
- If parts are missing, there is no safe way for a child to ride in this seat. Advise the family that they need a new seat. Sometimes, your local resources may enable you to replace the seat if the family is unable to purchase one.



We know you see misuse, too!

If you'd like to share it with other technicians, please e-mail photos to bbartlet@uga.edu for future issues of *Tech Talk*. Be sure to specify the car seat model, vehicle type, and/or any other relevant details.

GTIPI Training Dates

CPST 4-Day Training

January 15-18	St. Marys
January 28-31	Conyers
February 5-8	Peachtree City
March 3, 4, 10, & 11	Conyers
March 25-28	Albany

P.R.I.D.E. Instructor Certification

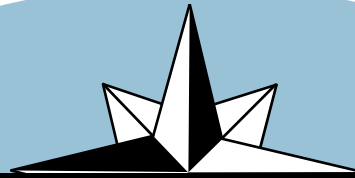
January 22	Conyers
January 29	Augusta
February 12	Savannah
February 26	Conyers
March 11	Thomasville
March 25	Conyers

P.R.I.D.E. Instructor Re-certification

January 23	Conyers
January 30	Augusta
February 13	Savannah
February 27	Conyers
March 12	Thomasville
March 26	Conyers

CarFit Technician Training

January 24	Conyers
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CPST Training: Then and Now

Remember when we used our knees to get tight installations?

It's time to change our thinking. The recently released 2007 National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training student manual says "**Apply weight into the seat with your hand while tightening the seat belt**" (p. 47). The instructor manual adds "**Avoid using your knee in the seat. The weight from an adult hand should allow the seat to be tightened enough**" (p. 66).



In most cases, you really can get a seat tight enough without needing to use a knee. (Yes, we've tried it!) Remember: it is acceptable for a seat to move up to 1 inch side-to-side or front-to-back at the belt path.

To learn more, view and print the updated NCPST student manual at www.cpsboard.org/techmanual_downloads.htm



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www.ridesafegeorgia.org

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***In cases where a top tether is available and appropriate,
only 55% of child safety seats have the top tether attached.***

Source: *Child Restraint Use Survey: LATCH Use and Misuse, December 2006, DOT HS 810 679*

Complete study available at www.nhtsa.gov