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The Newsletter for
BC's Child Passenger Safety Educators

SPRING 2010

Spread the word!

The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation has once again designated June as "Child Passenger Safety Month". It's our chance to reach out to families, schools, daycares, community agencies and others about the correct use of child car seats and booster seats.

We all have a responsibility to keep our children safe in the car. This special month of campaigning is a good time to make sure that everyone is aware of this, and that they take the steps necessary to place every child in an appropriate, correctly installed car seat.

Please help make a difference by getting out into your community and spreading the word.



Ways you can help...

- Send this newsletter to everyone you know.
- Request copies of our materials to distribute through your networks or in your community.
- Talk to friends, families, co-workers – anyone who transports children under nine.
- Provide information and education to schools, daycares, public health, police and other community groups.
- Partner with local police to do roadside checks and hand out information.
- Participate in events that raise the awareness in your community about child seats and the law.

- Contact your local newspaper. Tell them that June is Child Passenger Safety Month and let them know about the local events you are involved in.

...and resources to help you!

Contact us to get your hands on the items you need to help you spread the word about child passenger safety.

Online: www.ChildSeatInfo.ca

- news and updates
- downloadable fact sheets

In print: 1-877-247-5551

- BC's Child Car Seat Laws
- 11 x 17 poster
- Bookmark

Working together to protect children

The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation would like to acknowledge our corporate partners, BC's police and the many individuals who are working to help make each BC child safer when they travel by motor vehicle. We thank them for their support and commitment to protecting children.

BC's Child Seat Laws – Just the Facts

All drivers* MUST ensure that all children (under 16 years) are restrained appropriately as described below:

Up to one year AND 9 kg (20 lb.)

- Rear-facing child car seat
- NOT on a front seat with an active air bag



Over one year AND 9 kg to 18 kg (20 to 40 lb.)

- Forward-facing child car seat
- May remain rear-facing if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit



Over 18 kg (40 lb.) until 9th birthday unless they have reached 145 cm (4'9") in height

- Booster seat and a lap/shoulder seat belt
- May remain in forward-facing child car seat if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit
- If no lap/shoulder seat belt, must be secured without a booster seat by a lap belt



All child car seats must be used according to manufacturer's instructions and vehicle owner's manual.

Child car seats purchased outside Canada are not approved for use in BC.

* *Taxi drivers and drivers of emergency vehicles and most buses are exempt from these requirements.*

Questions? Please call the Child Seat Info Line: 1-877-247-5551.

This information is written in plain language for use in Canada only and is intended to provide general information only. Nothing is intended to provide legal or professional advice or to be relied on in any dispute, claim, action, demand or proceeding. BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation and ICBC do not accept liability for any damage or injury resulting from reliance on the information in this publication.

Holiday Tips

Q When we use a taxi, is the taxi driver legally responsible for ensuring my child is in a proper child car seat?

A No. The taxi driver is not. The parent, guardian, or agency representative is responsible for ensuring the child is correctly restrained in the taxi, whether that person is riding with the child or not.

Q We plan to take a taxi from home to the airport. Will the taxi company have a car seat for us to use?

A Not all taxi companies provide car seats for children. It is a good idea to call ahead and ask. If child seats aren't available, you could:

- take your own car seat and store it in a locker at the airport.
- have a friend take you to the airport.
- take your car seat with you as a piece of luggage.
- take your own car and use the long-term parking lot

Q My grandchildren are coming to visit. What should I do?

- A**
- Borrow the car seats you need from a friend
 - Rent them. Contact us for a list of agencies that offer rental car seats. (If it is booster seats that you need, it is often less expensive to buy rather than rent.)

Q How can I safely transport my grandchildren in my RV?

A In most cases there is no safe way to transport children in RVs. There is often nowhere to tether a forward facing child seat. Not all the bench seats face forward.

If you were planning to tow a car behind the RV, consider having a second driver drive it instead. That way the children can be safely transported. Or, if you are planning to park the RV and camp, have someone bring the children once you are in place, and pick them up again at the end of the vacation.