

Safe Travel for All Children:

Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs

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Special Needs Training and Instructor Candidacy

- Attended in 2012 & 2019
- Completed Instructor Candidacy 2019
- Training supported by FDOT and OPRC
- Travel expenses covered for 1 person from each existing program - 20 participants attended, 5 people helped



Special needs transportation and philosophy

- All children deserve to be protected while riding in a vehicle
- Some children may have short term or long term medical conditions that prevent them from traveling in conventional seats
- STAC was developed by the Automotive Safety Program (Indiana University and Riley Children's Hospital) with funding from the National Safety Council.
- The course contains basic information
- But it is not all inclusive
- Further children, their conditions and families vary so there is no "one size fits all"
- Many children who have special healthcare needs can be accommodated by conventional car seats

How to pick the right seat?

American Academy of Pediatrics Best Practice Recommendations

- Child should remain rear facing until they outgrow the weight or height of the seat
- Child should remain in a 5-point harness forward facing seat until they outgrow the weight or height limit of the seat's 5-point harness
- To ride in a booster seat child must be at least 4 years old AND weigh 40lbs (development should be considered)
- Seat belt: 5 step seat belt test (about 4'9")

Types of Child Restraints

- Rear-Facing only
- 3 (birth)-40 lbs (on the market)
- Has a carry handle
- Used from newborn child to large toddler (in some cases)



Types of Child Restraint

- 4 (or birth) -80lbs
 - Installed rear facing
 - Changes to forward facing
 - Newborn to school age
 - Some can become booster seats
- Convertible seats



Types of child restraints

- Combination 20-90lbs (120lbs as booster)
- Forward Facing
- Become booster seats



- Belt Positioning Boosters
- High back and backless

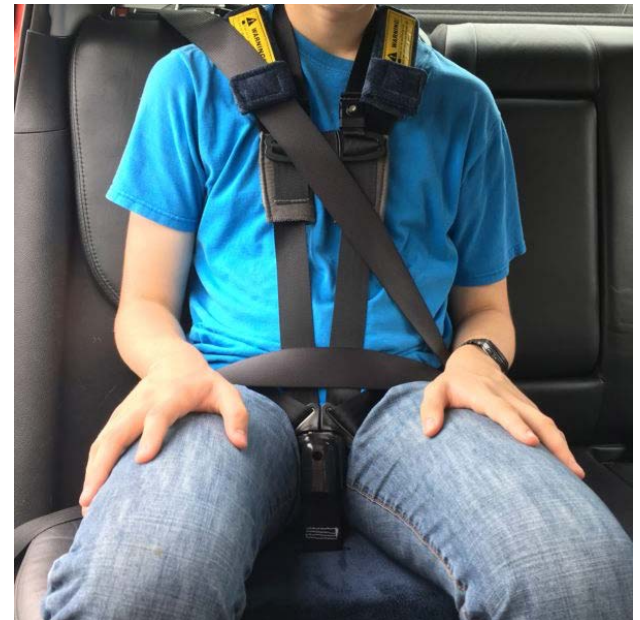


Medical Conditions

- Low-Birth weight
- Apnea
- Omphalocele/gastroschisis
- Casts
- Developmental delays and behavioral issues
- Halo Traction
- Cerebral Palsy
- Scoliosis
- Various comorbid condition in children with complex healthcare needs – may need high weight seats

Seats

- Car Beds
- Wallenberg - spica
- Jefferson – omphalocele/gastrosc hesis
- Vests
- Large medical seats and booster seats for children with special healthcare needs



Training moments on a hot June afternoon



Practice makes perfect



Working with families and follow up



Case Study



- 10 month-old
- Out of state
- Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
- Other comorbidities
- Inpatient – discharged to Ronald McDonald
- Assessment details
- Solution

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital



Who we serve



15

Inpatient Program

- Cerner consultations
- 48 hour response time
- NICU tolerance test policy
- Other units with unique needs
- Evaluation by a special needs technician and a multidisciplinary team
- Health conditions and family situation considered
- Medical transport may be necessary

Outpatient care and permanent solutions

- For patient families and community
- Car seat line triage
- Referral to Durable Medical Equipment Clinic
- Appointment scheduled for evaluation by CPST - PT/OT
- Clinic had demo seats and add-ons to fit the needs
- Selection determined at clinic
- Letter of medical necessity
- Car seat paid for and delivered
- Install in clinic with family

Loaner program

Danielle Kessenger – Wolfson Children's Hospital

Hip Spica and other leg casts



Wallenberg



Hippo
(out of production)

Loaner program

- In-patient program
- Identified by ortho cast techs
- Techs evaluate in child's car seat first
- Offer program loaner seats
 - Education at bedside
 - Education at carside
- No charge unless not returned

Loaner Program

Car Beds



Angel Guard

(birth – 9 pounds,
up to 21.5 inches)



Dream Ride

(birth – 20 pounds,
19-26 inches)



Hope Car Bed

(4.5 – 35 pounds,
up to 29 inches)

Loaner Program

- NICU nurses trained with current AAP angle tolerance recommendations
- Super Users identified and trained on hospital system policy and positioning baby in car seat
- Very few car beds at discharge in the last 5 years unless physical condition prevents use of conventional car seat or hospice

Loaner Program

- When seats are returned
 - Checked in and inspected
 - Cleaned by ortho cast techs according to manufacturer approved methods
 - Payment hold slip destroyed
 - Seat is put back into service

Resources

- hopkinsallchildrens.org/carseats
- preventinjury.pediatrics.iu.edu/special-needs
- Petra 727-767-8581 or pvybira1@jhmi.edu

Questions?
Thank you for your time
and attention!