

Education Stations

For Child Passenger Safety Week 2007, Safe Kids Worldwide has teamed up with Chevrolet to target 8- to 10-year-old tweens, especially those in underserved families. Recent research from Safe Kids and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has shown that underserved families are the least likely to receive safety messages, and children 8 to 10 years old are among the least likely to be in the correct restraint in a vehicle.

Objectives

- Reach 8- to 10-year-old tweens with vehicle safety messages.
- Use a fresh approach for drawing parents and their kids' attention to CPS Week.
- Focus on families in need.

Stations

These four education stations were created to help educate tweens and their families on how to be safe in and around cars. Please note that the stations are similar to the ones that were pilot tested for the Cub Scout program but come from a different funding source. Phase 2 of the Cub Scout program will be rolled out in March and should not be confused with these CPS Week activities. A few photos of past events using similar safety stations are available on the extranet for you to use as examples.

Each station is described below. The presentation at each station should last approximately 5 minutes and ideally be conducted by a CPS technician. **You will need a vehicle (Chevrolet preferred, but please use a General Motors brand) for each demonstration.** Depending on the amount of space available, you can set up one car for each station and have the children rotate through, or if multiple cars are not available, use the same car to demonstrate each lesson. The stations are:

SAFETY BELT FIT TEST

Objectives:

- To have parents see how a correctly fitted safety belt looks on their child.
- To have parents know if their child needs to use a booster seat to achieve a properly fitted safety belt.
- To have kids understand how a booster seat helps them achieve a properly fitted safety belt.

USE A DEMONSTRATION VEHICLE

1. Have an adult volunteer sit in a back seat and buckle up to show how a properly fitted safety belt looks.
2. Show where the safety belt rests on the adult's shoulder and hips. Show how his or her knees bend at the seat's edge.
3. Have the adult exit the vehicle.

4. Now use a child volunteer in the same seating position to show how the safety belt fits him or her. Point out shoulders, knees and hips relative to the safety belt.
5. Have a backless booster seat available to show how using a booster seat improves the safety belt fit for kids who do not have a properly fitted safety belt.
6. Test each child to show parents whether their child needs a booster seat or whether the safety belt is adequate.

QUESTIONS TO ASK KIDS: Where should the “lap” part of the safety belt fit on your body? Where should the shoulder part of the safety belt rest on your body?

QUESTION TO ASK ADULTS: Does your child need to return to a booster seat?

Materials Needed:

Four-door vehicle

Booster seat (backless)

SPOT THE TOT

Objectives:

- To have parents walk completely around a vehicle before entering to look for children, pets and toys.
- To show kids how hard it is for adults to see them when they are near cars.
- To encourage tweens to be properly restrained and then serve as good safety role models for younger siblings and friends.

USE A DEMONSTRATION VEHICLE WITH A SPOT THE TOT ACTIVITY MAT BEHIND IT

1. Talk about how drivers have a hard time seeing small kids or toys behind their cars.
2. Talk about how children should not play in or around cars at any time. That includes driveways, parking lots and even other places where cars are turned off.
3. Have an adult volunteer sit behind the wheel of the car. Roll out the measured mat behind the car.
4. Have a few children kneel behind the car. Ask the driver if he or she can see the children at play.
5. Have children move back away from the car. See how many feet away from the car they must be before the driver sees the children.
6. Show the adults how many children are in the “blind spot” behind the vehicle.
7. Talk about doing a complete walk around the vehicle to look for kids, toys and pets before entering.

QUESTIONS TO ASK KIDS: When is it safe to play near parked cars or in driveways? How far do kids need to be away from a car before a driver can see them?

QUESTIONS TO ASK ADULTS: Will you remember this demonstration and do a complete walk around your car every time you enter the car? What can you do to make the areas where your child plays safer?

Materials Needed:

Measured mat that is placed behind the vehicle
Van, SUV or car

NEVER LEAVE YOUR CHILD ALONE

Objectives:

- Parents will understand how dangerous it is to leave children alone in vehicles.
- Kids will learn how hot a vehicle can get, even on a relatively cool day, and learn that it's never safe to be in a car alone.

USE A DEMONSTRATION VEHICLE WITH THERMOMETERS

This is primarily a warm-weather activity. If it is cold or the event is being held indoors, the gauge will not show a marked difference between the temperature indoors and outdoors.

1. Set up the vehicle outside with temperature gauges inside and outside the car. See if the sun makes a difference with temperatures. This may be difficult to show in cold climates, but it should be mentioned.
2. No kids of any age should ever be left in a car without an adult, even for a few minutes.
3. In hot weather, cars get very hot very fast.
4. In some cases, the car is literally as hot as an oven. One test showed it was warm enough to bake cookies or fry an egg on the dashboard just by using the heat of the sun.
5. Kids can also get hurt by playing alone in cars. Cars are not toys, and children should never play with the gear shift or ignition. Unattended kids may try to turn the car on to listen to the radio or put on the heat or air conditioner.
6. Urge parents to call 911 if they see children unattended in a vehicle.

QUESTIONS TO ASK KIDS: When is it safe for children to be alone in cars without an adult? What are some of the things that can make it unsafe for children to be alone in cars?

QUESTIONS FOR ADULTS: What should you do if you come across a vehicle with children left unattended inside? Why should you never leave children alone in a car?

Materials Needed:

Vehicle

Thermometers

PREVENTING TRUNK ENTRAPMENT

Objectives:

- Kids will learn to never hide or play in car trunks. They will know trunks should only be used for cargo.
- Parents and kids will learn about the “glow in the dark” pull handle found in cars made after 2001. The pull handle opens the trunk from the inside.

USE A DEMONSTRATION VEHICLE WITH A TRUNK AND PUT BAGS OR SUITCASES IN THE TRUNK. DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN CLIMB IN THE TRUNK.

1. Kids of any age should never play in or around cars. That includes trunks. Trunks are not hiding places or play areas.
2. Car manufacturers know that sometimes people get locked in trunks by accident.
3. There is a “glow in the dark” handle inside every newer car.
4. The “glow in the dark” handle is not a toy.
5. Have parents and kids come to the car and see where the handle is. Have adults try to pull the handle.

QUESTIONS TO ASK KIDS: Do all cars have a “glow in the dark” handle, even older cars? How can you find the “glow in the dark” handle?

QUESTION FOR ADULTS: Does your car have a “glow in the dark” handle?

Materials Needed:

Sedan with a trunk (find the “glow in the dark” handle before the presentation)

Suitcases or bags for the “cargo” message