



Child Passenger Safety Check-Up/Fitting Station Event: Implementation Guide for the Trauma Regional Advisory Council Injury and Violence Prevention Grant

Program Description:

Check-up and fitting station events provide an *education* service, not an *installation* service. Parents and caregivers are educated on the proper use and installation of the child safety seats. The knowledge gained from the CPS inspection experience is meant to empower parents and caregivers to properly install and use an appropriate child safety seat for his or her child. Parents and care-givers should always have a “hands-on” role and be engaged in the inspection process. Parents and caregivers initial the CPS checklist form for each car seat installed to verify that they were taught how to install the car seat correctly. It is also important that they are the last person to touch the child safety seat before the vehicle leaves the CPS check-up or fitting station event. CPS Technicians must be prepared to offer education and answer questions in the following areas:

- Securing the child safely in the seat
- Proper use and installation of the child restraint in the vehicle
- Proper use and installation of booster seats
- Proper use of seat belts
- Proper use of LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children)
- Appropriate positioning of occupants in vehicles with airbags

Projected Costs:

Description	Cost
Products*	\$2,400
Event Hosting and Supplies**	\$800
Technical Costs	\$1,000
Refreshments	\$500
Total:	\$4,700

The cost will vary greatly depending on the size of the event.

*The average cost of a car seat is \$50.00.

**Event hosting supplies include materials to mark lanes and traffic flow, pens, clipboards, and printing of check-up forms.

Training Needed:

Any Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician can inspect and install seats. To train technicians you must successfully complete an instructor candidacy program to become a Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor. You must then complete an additional process to become eligible to be a lead instructor to conduct your own class. Safe Kids World Wide is the certifying body and publishes the curriculum.

For more information:

To receive the comprehensive planning guide (***Child Safety Seat Check-up Planning Guide***), please contact the SIPP Motor Vehicle Safety Analyst at 501-364-3443. The guide, developed and distributed by UAMS Child Passenger Safety Education Program and the ACH Community Outreach Child Passenger Safety Program, outlines the complete step-by-step process to host a successful checkup event.

Event Implementation:

Child safety seat check-up and fitting station events are designed to educate parents and caregivers on the correct methods of transporting children as safely as possible using car seats and seat belts. To ensure the quality of the event, careful thought and proper planning are vitally important. Any discussion of a Car Seat Check-up or fitting station event must begin with a



question – Do we have enough specially trained child passenger safety technicians who will do the actual inspections and installations of the car seats? Without the appropriate number of certified technicians signed-on for the event, the idea of holding a Car Seat Check Up should not even be considered. As a general guide, fitting stations are scheduled by appointment and can be achieved using one technician as a minimum. A relatively small public check-up event will require a minimum of 6-8 CPS technicians with at least one Senior Checker. A larger event with strong publicity will usually require twice that number (12-16 technicians and two to three Senior Checkers). In either case, all technicians should have successfully completed the NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Certification Course and received their certification from Safe Kids Worldwide.

Event Location:

- Choose a location that is easy to find and large enough to accommodate several check stations plus buffer zones. Hold the inspection at a location parents and caregivers frequent. Somewhere such as a Wal-Mart or other retail location, church, or school with a large parking lot and more than one entrance/exit is desired.
- For the safety of participants and workers, the area should be roped-off with cones, caution tape, shopping carts, barricades or a combination of all these things. It will take a minimum of 20 minutes and sometimes up to an hour to check a single vehicle. Therefore, it is important to understand that there will be a line of vehicles and that appropriate space is needed.
- Plan to work beforehand with the person in charge of the physical site (for instance the store manager at a retail location) to walk the parking lot and determine what space is best suited for traffic flow and is the least disruptive to the other vehicular traffic.

Promotion:

Publicity is essential for a successful event.

- Coordinate publicity through local media including newspapers, television and radio.
- Create posters and fliers advertising the checkup event at least four weeks in advance of the event. Post fliers/signs at least two weeks in advance.
- Ask retail stores, daycare centers, churches, and similar organizations to distribute the fliers the week before the event.

Vendor Information:

Below is listed the vendor information to order child passenger safety seats from Evenflo. You may also choose to contact your local Wal-Mart store or online, as well as other department stores to purchase your seats.