

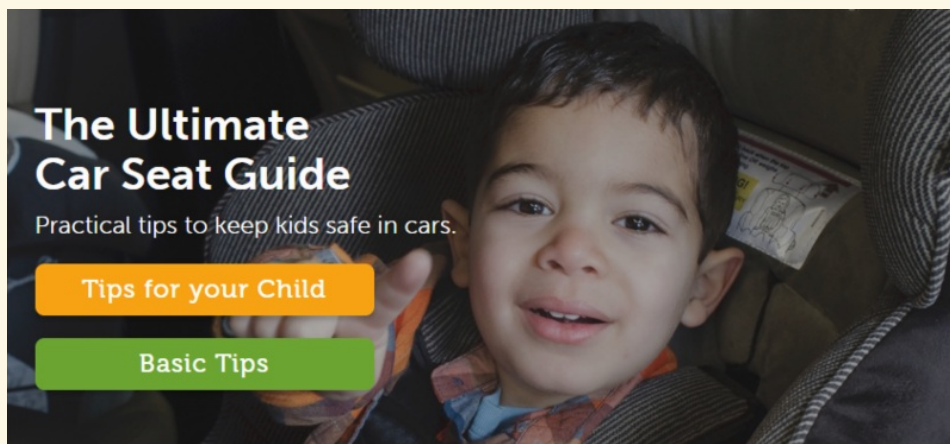


Welcome to the 2018-19 school year!

With school back in session, it is important to have set routines for you and your family. Set routines are important, not just to make it to work or school on time, but to ensure your child's safety, as well.

In this issue of the Safe Kids Upstate Newsletter, you will find information on carpooling, car passenger safety, home safety, International Walk to School Day, recent events, and upcoming events.

Ultimate Car Seat Guide



Looking to purchase a car seat? Confused on the next step car seat for your child? Are you trying to figure out if you have the right fit for your child? Or are you confused on when to change your child's seat? All of the answers can be found by using the [Ultimate Car Seat Guide](#). You may also schedule a car seat check at one of our several locations by

Carpooling Safety

School is back in session and with that comes morning mayhem and carpooling. See below for tips to make sure you are worry-free when you are traveling with your children and when your child(ren) are traveling with others.

Before the ride:

1. Communicate with the carpooling parent:
 1. Talk about the child(ren) to be transported (i.e. their car seat/booster seat/typical morning behavior/drop off and pick-up routine).
 2. Communicate what you require when your child is a passenger in a car (i.e. wait until a complete stop to unbuckle and get out of the vehicle).
 3. Arrange a method to keep the necessary seats on hand (e.g. provide a second booster seat in the vehicle or the child could carry an inflatable booster seat in his/her backpack).
 4. Set rules for the children
 1. All backpacks in the trunk to prevent them from becoming projectiles in the event of an accident.
 2. No horseplay, to prevent the driver from being distracted.
 3. Lock windows and doors to prevent children from playing with them.

During the ride:

1. Buckle-up (including the driver).
2. Focus on driving and lookout for pedestrians and bicyclists.
3. Refrain from the use of a cellphone, eating food, or any other form of distraction.

After the ride:

1. Verify that all of the children have left the vehicle (no one is hiding).
2. Buckle booster seats in so they do not become projectiles in the event of a car accident.
3. Let the carpooling parents know about any issues you had on the ride.



Child Passenger Safety Month

With the number of children dying in car crashes on the rise, the need to keep kids secured in the right kind of car seat or booster seats is more urgent than ever. Safe Kids reports that the number of children killed in cars is the highest level in ten years. A total of 662 children ages 0 through 10- nearly two every day- died as passengers in motor vehicles in 2016. Almost 40 percent of child victims in fatal motor vehicle crashes were totally unrestrained, according to 2016 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Traffic Safety Facts.

Child restraint systems, when used properly, decrease the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent among infants, 54 percent among toddlers and 45 percent among kids ages 4 to 8 years, according to NHTSA. However, many car seats

are not being used correctly. Common errors include a loose harness, not using the seat

belt or LATCH system to properly secure a car seat, failing to correctly use the tether and being unaware of the risks of using a second-hand car seat or booster.

Child Passenger Safety Week - September 23-29

Child Passenger Safety Week is September 23-29 and culminates with National Seat Check Saturday on September 29. In September, Safe Kids will host more than 500 car seat events and inspection stations across the country, offering guidance from certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians on proper car seat and booster seat installation and usage, with a focus on the use of tethers.

[Click here to locate an inspection station in your community.](#)

International Walk to School Day



Unintentional pedestrian injuries are the 5th leading cause of injury-related death in the US for children ages 5-19. Teenagers are now at greatest risk. Teens have a death rate twice that of younger children and account for half of all child pedestrian deaths.

International Walk to School Day will be held October 10th, 2018. Schools across the world will celebrate this day by teaching kids safe walking behaviors and raising awareness about child pedestrian safety in the community.

This year Safe Kids Upstate will celebrate with Westminster Elementary School in Westminster, SC. Please support your local school in celebrating this important day!

[Click here for Pedestrian Safety Tips!](#)

Alarming Dangers in School Zones



The Facts About Teen Pedestrians

<p>5 /week</p> <p>There are 5 teen pedestrian deaths every week in the United States.</p>	<p>13% </p> <p>There has been a 13% increase in the pedestrian death rate for 12-19 year olds since 2013.</p>	<p>Age 15-19</p> <p>population pedestrian deaths</p> <p>In 2015, while teens ages 15-19 made up 26 percent of all children ages 0-19 years, they made up about half of the pedestrian fatalities.</p>
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We observed 39,000 middle and high school students and 56,000 drivers in school zones in 2016.

<p>Distracted walking is on the rise. We observed it in 1 in 4 high school students and 1 in 6 middle school students.</p>	<p>Distracted teens were most likely to be wearing headphones or texting.</p> <p>44%</p> <p>31%</p>	<p>Unsafe street crossing behavior was observed in about 80% of students.</p>	<p>Unsafe drop-off or pick-up behavior was observed in nearly 1 in 3 drivers.</p>
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What Communities Can Do to Protect Kids on the Move

<p>Install proven interventions, like crosswalks, speed limits, visible signs and traffic lights.</p> <p>Marked crosswalks were missing in 3 out of 10 observed crossings.</p>	<p>Set and enforce speed limits in school zones at no more than 20 mph.</p> <p>Low speed limits (≤20 mph) were observed in only about 4 out of 10 school zones.</p>	<p>Educate parents and students about dangerous walking and driving habits (e.g., crossing mid-block, texting or talking on the phone.)</p>	<p>Implement and enforce school drop-off/pick-up policies.</p>
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For more information visit safekids.org



Fall Prevention Awareness

Did you know? Unintentional falls are the number one cause of non-fatal injuries for children. Thirty-eight percent of these injuries are among kids 4 and under. In 2011, there were 2,876,929 fall related injuries requiring treatment for children!

Fortunately falls are preventable, follow these tips to help prevent injuries for your children:

- Secure children when seated—High Chairs, Infant Carriers, Swings and Strollers.



- Be Smart Protect Your Head--Wear a helmet for biking, snowboarding, or other activities to prevent head injuries.
- Shopping Cart Use--Don't leave a child alone in a shopping cart. When they are seated use the safety belt.

[Click here to learn more tips about how to keep your children from being injured in a fall.](#)

Recent Events

Safe Schools Meetings

Safe Kids Upstate is working with over 97% of elementary schools in the Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens areas in the Driving Safety Home--Safe Schools Program. Educators learned about the updated program and received important materials to promote safety at all schools.

Save the date: Sunday, April 7, 2019 we will celebrate Safe Kids Day at the Greenville Drive!



Spuds and Sprouts at TD Market



Safe Kids Upstate staff hosted the Spuds and Sprouts table at TD Market on August 4th. Spuds and Sprouts focuses on educational activities surrounding commonly found items at the Farmers Market. The August 4th lesson focused on Peppers! Children were able to taste test all 3 common varieties of sweet peppers and were able to vote for their favorite. Kids and families also learned interesting facts about peppers. Did you know that peppers provide almost 3 times more Vitamin C as oranges do?

National Night Out

Safe Kids Upstate had a blast participating in the Simpsonville and Creekwood Apartments National Night Out events. SKU shared information with families regarding pedestrian safety, home safety, child passenger safety, and bike safety. Several local organizations attended both events. We look forward to working at next year's National Night Out.

Child Passenger Safety Training at Simpsonville FD

Safe Kids Upstate hosted a Child Passenger Safety certification class at Simpsonville Fire Department. Congrats to the 18 new CPS Technicians. The new techs included members from the police department, fire department, emergency medical technicians (EMT), hospital staff, community members, and more.



[To schedule an appointment with a trained tech, click here!](#)



Gettys Middle School Meet the Teacher

Gettys Middle School invited Safe Kids Upstate to attend their Meet the Teacher Night to educate students and families in pedestrian safety. SKU staff share resources and gave away fun blinking lights. Gettys has recently repainted their crosswalk and installed a no left turn during drop-off

and pick-up time. They are doing a fantastic job making sure their students are safe!

Upcoming Events

Joint Events

- **September 11-12th**--Safe Travel for All Children Course contact bwatson@ghs.org for more information
- **October 10th**--International Walk to School Day

Greenville County

Oconee County

- **September 27th**--Oconee Memorial Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament
- **October 10th**--International Walk to School Day at Westminster Elementary (SKU Staff attending)
- **October 13th**--Home Depot Day to include 3D Teen Driving Simulator, Buddy's House and more!
- **October 27th**--Oconee County Baby Shower

Pickens County

- **October 11th**--Easley Fire Department Open House at 5:11pm
- **October 17th**--Pickens County Safe Kids Upstate Coalition Meeting

[Click here to access Safe Kids Upstate's Event Calendar](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



Safe Kids Upstate | 864-454-1100 | www.safekidsupstate.org
[Click here to join our mailing list!](#)



Children's Hospital
Greenville Health System

Bradshaw Institute for Community
Child Health & Advocacy

