

NATIONAL  
CHILD  
PASSENGER  
SAFETY  
CERTIFICATION

A Program of  
Safe Kids Worldwide

# CPSExpress

FEBRUARY 2026



**CERTIFICATION UPDATES**

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## Child Passenger Safety Virtual Presence Trial

Various strategies have been proposed to improve the quality of child restraint installation. The gold-standard strategy is in-person training and support from a certified car seat technician, who works individually with parents/caregivers to install the restraint in the vehicle correctly and the child in the restraint. While extensive evidence supports the conclusion that this strategy increases proper restraint installation, there is a substantial imbalance in the supply-to-demand ratio: many more parents desire and would benefit from assistance than there are certified technicians available. One alternative approach would be to train parents remotely.

Interactive virtual presence offers simultaneous voice and visual communication as well as virtual presence (that is, the remotely-located car seat technician can embed their hands into the visual image, for example physically pointing to a strap that needs tightening) and other technologically-sophisticated tools (e.g., image freezing, telestration – freehand annotations (lines, arrows, text) over a live video image).

For the past five years, Safe Kids has collaborated with Dr. David Schwebel and seven Safe Kids sites to evaluate the use of interactive virtual presence to assist parents in remotely installing child restraints, as an alternative to traditional in-person car seat checks.

**Study design:** Randomized non-inferiority clinical trial, with participants randomly allocated to installation of the child restraint with a live certified technician vs. installation with a remotely-located certified technician via interactive virtual presence using the Help Lightning app with 4-month follow-up.

**Data collection:** 1,509 individuals were recruited between 2020 and 2023 to participate from 7 cities and their surrounding areas: Birmingham, Alabama; Burlington, Vermont; Charlotte, North Carolina; Houston, Texas; Kelso, Washington; Los Angeles, California; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Participants were required to regularly drive children in their vehicles, speak English or Spanish, and have a vehicle, a child restraint (excluding booster seats), and a smartphone connected to Wi-Fi or cellular service that they were willing to use for the research.

### Key findings:

- Overall, 85.25% of the child restraint installation/use components measured were correct on arrival at the initial research visit. However, just 11.9% of all restraints were installed and used entirely correctly.
- The accuracy of restraint installation by a remotely located technician via interactive

virtual presence **was not inferior** to that achieved by an on-site technician.

- Child restraint installation use was good but not perfect, both four months after engagement with either in-person or remote technicians, and after parents reinstalled the seat themselves at the follow-up visit.
- Participants assigned to remote technician interactions for initial research visit achieved noninferior, and in fact superior scores, when they reinstalled the seat themselves at the follow-up visit, perhaps reflecting the value of physically completing installation tasks themselves at the first visit rather than relying on technicians to help.

More details on the findings can be found across three publications:

Schwebel D.C., MacKay M., Beasley T.M., Johnston A., Beckworth K., Beerman A., Harris M., Koldoff E., Rivera S., Williams J. Interactive Virtual Presence to Remotely Assist Parents With Car Seat Installation. *Pediatrics*. 2025 Nov 1;156(5):e2025071867. doi: [10.1542/peds.2025-071867](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2025-071867)

Schwebel, D. C., MacKay, M., Beasley, T. M., Johnston, A., Koldoff, E., Beckworth, K., Rivera, S., Williams, J., & Crew, M. (2025). Child restraint misuse: Do parents properly install car seats? *Journal of Safety Research*, 95, 220-225. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2025.10.004>

Schwebel, D. C., MacKay, M., Beasley, T. M., Johnston, A., Williams, J., Rivera, S., Beckworth, K., & Crew, M. (2026). Retention of learning from in-person and remote child restraint check-up visits: A randomized noninferiority clinical trial. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 224. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2025.108303>

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## Counterfeit Car Seats

As counterfeit car seats continue to surface online, this is a reminder to help caregivers recognize red flags before purchasing. Many counterfeit seats are sold through third-party online sellers at unusually low prices, lack registration cards or manufacturer contact information, and may display unfamiliar brand names or missing federal certification labels stating they meet FMVSS 213 requirements. These products often have poor design features, such as flimsy harnesses, missing chest clips, or questionable installation hardware, that compromise a child's protection in a crash. By educating caregivers to research brands, buy from reputable retailers, and verify that every seat includes a U.S. certification label, registration card, and clear instructions for use, we can help families make safer choices and keep kids better protected on every ride.

## INSTRUCTOR UPDATES

## Instructor Candidacy Evaluation

After the Course Evaluations, the Lead Instructor is responsible for entering pass/fail designations for all instructor candidates during the online course finalization process. Additionally, he or she must submit the completed Instructor Candidate Evaluation.

[Instructor Candidate Evaluation](#)- ver. 8/2025

### Candidacy Evaluation Requirements

1. Mentor and IC review expectations before the course starts
2. IC attends and participates fully in the entire course. At the end of each day, the mentor(s) and candidate review:
  - The day's activities, lectures, teamwork and coursework
  - Discuss suggested and required opportunities for improvement
  - Discuss what worked well (communication, classroom management, technical skill and teamwork)
3. On the last day of the course, a final, comprehensive review occurs, at which time the IC's performance is finalized. Any review items that are marked DISAGREE will result in the Candidate's failure.

## TECHNICIAN UPDATES

### Safe Kids Training Portal

Safe Kids has launched a new online training portal! Training.SafeKids.org\* has been updated to a new platform that will provide you with CEUs for recertification.

You will find this year's manufacturers' webinars as well as the historical training from the previous portal.

Please keep an eye out for new training and resources as they become available, such as copies of CPS Express, the Policy and Procedures manual, and the glossary of terms from the CPS Certification Curriculum.

To access the site, please go to [training.safekids.org](http://training.safekids.org) and click "forgotten your details?" to request a new password. Your username will be the same as you use for your certification profile at [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org).

If you have any problems accessing the site, please contact Matt Louzon at [mlouzon@safekids.org](mailto:mlouzon@safekids.org)

\*If your organization blocks redirected websites, please visit the site directly at [safekids.streamlxp.com](http://safekids.streamlxp.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## Conferences

# SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE. CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SUMMIT

APRIL 18 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER



Safe Kids Worldwide will be hosting the **Child Passenger Safety Summit (CPS)** at the **[Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#)**. We'd like to invite you to participate in the CPS Summit, an inclusive, collaborative convening of professionals, advocates, researchers, and educators dedicated to advancing the field of child passenger safety. The Summit will be held as an in-person auxiliary session on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center. Attendees can register for the session along with their conference [registration](#).

If you have already registered for Lifesavers and want to go back and add the CPS Summit to your registration, please email [Michelle Khoury](mailto:Michelle.Khoury@lifesaversconference.org) at [Khoury@lifesaversconference.org](mailto:Khoury@lifesaversconference.org).

If you are not planning to attend the full Lifesavers Conference, but want to attend the CPS Summit on April 18, please reach out to [Daphne Greenlee](#) for a one-day registration code.

### **[Lifesavers Conference](#)** (2026)

April 19-21, 2026

(with auxiliary trainings April 18, 2026)

Baltimore, MD



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## MACPS Calendar of State, Regional, and National CPS Conferences

### 2026

**UT:** February 25

2026 Utah CPS Conference (West Valley City)

Stacy Debban, [sdebban@utah.gov](mailto:sdebban@utah.gov)

**MA:** March 06

Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Conference (Worcester)

Mandi Summers, [mandi.summers@baystatehealth.org](mailto:mandi.summers@baystatehealth.org)

**OK:** April 15

Martha Collar Tech Reunion – Oklahoma Statewide CPS Conference (Broken Arrow)

Beth Washington, [bawashington@saintfrancis.com](mailto:bawashington@saintfrancis.com)

**Lifesavers Conference** (Baltimore, MD): April 19-21 (with auxiliary trainings April 18)

[www.lifesaversconference.org](http://www.lifesaversconference.org)

**CA/AZ/NV:** May 4

Southern CA CPST Summit (Los Angeles)

Kristen Sanders, [ksanders@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ksanders@ph.lacounty.gov)

**NC, SC, TN, VA:** May 04-06

Safe Kids North Carolina Conference (Cherokee, NC)

Allan Buchanan, [allan.buchanan@ncdoi.gov](mailto:allan.buchanan@ncdoi.gov)

**IN:** May 19–20

Indiana CPS Conference (Indianapolis); [www.preventinjury.org](http://www.preventinjury.org)

Becky Tamosaitis, [btamosai@iu.edu](mailto:btamosai@iu.edu)

**ID:** May 21–22

2026 Child Passenger Safety Conference (Boise)

Carma McKinnon, [carma@lemhicountyidaho.org](mailto:carma@lemhicountyidaho.org)

**LA:** June 9

Louisiana Child Passenger Safety Conference (Baton Rouge)

Bridget Gardner, [bridget.gardner@lcmchealth.org](mailto:bridget.gardner@lcmchealth.org)

**WA:** June 17

Washington Safety Summit (Wenatchee)

Wanda Yamashita, [wanday@theyamashitas.com](mailto:wanday@theyamashitas.com)

**NC:** August (Extended Learning Sessions on August)

KIDZ IN MOTION Conference (Wilmington, NC); [www.kidzinmotion.org](http://www.kidzinmotion.org)

**SC:** September 15

2026 Child Passenger Safety Summit (Columbia)

Kevin Poore, [poorekh@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:poorekh@dhec.sc.gov)

## CEU AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCES

Visit [training.safekids.org](https://training.safekids.org) to see updates to the CEU platform and look for new CEUs coming soon. For assistance with login or certificates please contact Matt Louzon at [mlouzon@safekids.org](mailto:mlouzon@safekids.org).

### Which CEUs are Approved for Audits?

When you are completing your CEUs for recertification, you must complete CEUs that are approved for CPS recertification. Here are the categories that qualify for recertification CEUs:

- **Category 1: In-person Session/Workshop**
- **Category 2: Teleconferences**
- **Category 3: Online/Web Sessions**
- **Category 4: Newsletters/Manuals/Journals**

Once a CEU is completed and entered in your profile, please keep all certificates of attendance documentation for at least 3 months after you are recertified. If you are not sure if your CEU qualifies for recertification, please visit: <https://cert.safekids.org/i-am-a-tech/recertification/auditing-ceus> for more information. Should any questions arise about audits, please visit the policies & procedures manual [National CPS Certification Policies & Procedures Manual](#) or email [cpsaudit@safekids.org](mailto:cpsaudit@safekids.org).

## SAFE KIDS WEBINARS

### JOIE 2026 Product Update

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET (1 CEU)

[Register Now](#)

### Tentative 2026 Upcoming Webinars

Brought to you by State Farm, the National Child Passenger Safety Board and Safe Kids. All CPSTs watching a live webinar must watch at least 45 minutes to earn CEU or CHES credits. Below are the tentative dates and Manufacturers for the 2026 webinars. Watch for upcoming registration information at:

[Recertification | National CPS Certification](#) or <https://www.facebook.com/CPScert>

February 18: **JOIE**  
March 18: **Chicco**  
April 15: **AXKID**  
May 20: **Bubblebum**  
June 17: **Doona**  
July 15: **Baby Trend**  
August 19: **UPPAbaby**  
September 16: **Britax**  
October 21: **Graco**  
November 18: **babyark**

## CERTIFICATION WEBSITE

### **Alert: Stop Spinning**

If you are in your CPS online profile and **the page won't load** (spinning circle), it is probably because you are using Internet Explorer for the browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with some web pages because it is no longer supported/updated.

The solution is to **use a different browser such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Edge.**

## SAFE KIDS' TEAM CERT IS HERE TO HELP!

The Safe Kids team is available to help you with recertification, course management, CEU audits and any other certification-related issues.

- Technical content and questions, understanding Certification policies and procedures  
**Cass Herring**, [certadvisor@safekids.org](mailto:certadvisor@safekids.org)
- Recertification, managing a course, or paying a fee (roster issues)  
**Wardell Bonner or Theresa Jean**, [cpscert@safekids.org](mailto:cpscert@safekids.org), or 202-875-6330
- Pre-approvals for CEUs, technician proxy applications, instructor candidacy applications, Nursing Continuing Education credits  
**Stephanie Heitsch**, [sheitsch@safekids.org](mailto:sheitsch@safekids.org)
- Audit questions  
**Franki Algarin**, [cpsaudit@safekids.org](mailto:cpsaudit@safekids.org)
- Questions related to training.safekids.org  
**Matt Louzon**, [mlouzon@safekids.org](mailto:mlouzon@safekids.org)



Program Partners



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