Safe Kids Maryland Provides Car Seat Advice to Public

Safe Kids Maryland and Babies R Us joined together on September 9, 2017, to promote Baby Safety Month. Along with Child Passenger Safety Technician Liz Laubach from Maryland Kids in Safety Seats, Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, MIEMSS Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection Health Care project manager, was on hand at the Pasadena store location to answer questions from the public about car seats and help caregivers find the right seat for their children based on age, height, and weight.

Many caregivers who stopped by the display asked how long a specific car seat will work for a particular child. This is an important question to ask, as many children outgrow their seats by height long before they reach the weight limits of the seat. The child passenger safety representatives also showed caregivers how to install an infant carrier-type seat in their vehicles without using the base, noting how this skill is useful for taxis or grandparents’ cars.

For more information about car seat safety or to find seat check locations, contact Maryland Kids in Safety Seats at 800-370-SEAT or www.mdkiss.org.

New Research on Car Seat Tethers Released

The latest research report by Safe Kids Worldwide, *Car Seats and Tethers: Essential for Safety but Consistently Overlooked*, found that many car seats are not used properly because of one misunderstood but essential step in installation: attaching the top tether. In collaboration with Chevrolet, Safe Kids Worldwide is working to educate families and caregivers about using a tether when installing their forward-facing car seat with a harness. To access the full report, click [http://bit.ly/2eYx1uj](http://bit.ly/2eYx1uj).

This study found that 64% of parents who should be using the tether to secure their child’s car seat were not. The tether is a critical element, and without it the sudden forward motion in a crash can result in a child’s head hitting the back of the front seat, other occupants, or even the console, causing serious harm.

Throughout the month of September, more than 200 Safe Kids Worldwide coalitions hosted car seat checkup events designed to assist families with properly installing their child’s car seat. During these events, certified child passenger safety technicians work one-on-one with parents and caregivers to check car seats for proper installation and answer questions. Expert help is also available through the online Ultimate Car Seat Guide, [www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide](http://www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide), available in English and Spanish, which offers practical advice on how to choose and use a car seat.

This article was adapted from a report released to the health care community by Safe Kids Worldwide.