



Car crashes are the number one killer of children 1 to 12 years old in the United States and about 85% of all child safety seats or booster seats are improperly used. The best way to protect them in the car is to put them in the right seat, at the right time, and use it the right way.

There are so many car seat types and models, how do you know which one is right for your child? The right car seat or booster fits your child and your car, and is one you will use correctly every time you travel. Not only will your child ride as safely as possible, you will be establishing the foundation for a lifelong habit of seat belt use every time your child travels.

The Smithfield Police Department currently has two officers who are nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. The CPS Technician is prepared to assist you in selecting the proper child safety seat, teach you the proper way to install the seat, and to answer any questions you may have regarding securing your child in the seat. Technicians who are certified have successfully taken and completed a 32-hour course which includes both a written and a two-phase practical exam.

Along with properly installing the safety seats, the police department also provides educational information to parents/caregivers about the importance of correctly utilizing the seats to provide the greatest degree of safety for the child.

This one-on-one education typically takes 20-30 minutes, depending on the car seat and the vehicle. The CPS Technician will take the time necessary to ensure that you feel confident in re-securing the car seat into the vehicle and re-buckling your child into the car seat on your own.

Due to the time needed, all Safety Seat Checks are by appointment only.

Requests for child safety seat installations can be made by calling the Smithfield Police Department at (919)934-2121.

<http://www.ncdoi.com/osfm/safekids/>

<http://www.buckleupnc.org/>

