SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTING CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY IN YOUR SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM
by Arline S. Dillman, Ph.D.

A. Parent Education Topic

1. Your local child passenger safety association or AAA Club may be able to help with speakers and/or films.

2. Trained Child Passenger Safety Technicians in your area may be able to provide resources for a parent meeting.

3. Show "Boosters Are For Big Kids" video (K-5) to inform parents; available from SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

B. Classroom Applications -- Younger Children

1. Discussion with the children
   a. We need to encourage the use of restraints in a positive manner, without frightening the children. Possible approaches are: "Safety belts and safety seats are to keep little people snug, secure, and safe from bumps and bruises." "The safety seat helps, protects, and takes care of you; it keeps you from bumping your head." "This is your special way to ride in the car."
   b. Show the children a picture of a safety seat and explain that all the straps need to be fastened so they are comfortable and safe in the seat. Tell them if there isn’t a safety seat, to use the safety belt over their hips, not their stomachs. Also emphasize that the back seat offers more protection than the front.
   c. Obtain a safety seat (borrow from a parent or find a used one) so you can demonstrate with the child in the class. Set up a safety booster with a shoulder and lap belt on a chair so that children can practice using it.
   d. Include car safety in "first-of-the-year" general safety talks. Remind children before every field trip in a car about "automobile manners" -- sitting still and buckling up in the back seat.
   e. By Kindergarten, introduce "Booster Are For Big Kids," an experiential curriculum with homework and classroom activities to teach why and how to use boosters.
2. Songs
   a. To the tune of "The Wheels of the Bus Go Round and Round":
      1st verse: The wheels of the car go round and round, etc.
      2nd verse: We're all snug in our safety seats, etc.
      3rd verse: We always sit in the back seat, etc.
   b. To the tune of "Frère Jacques":
      Wear your safety belt, wear your safety belt,
      Every trip, in your car.
      You'll be safer with it, you'll be safer with it,
      So will Mom, so will Dad.
   c. To the tune of "Jingle Bells":
      Buckle up, buckle up,
      Buckle up your belt.
      Every time you're in a car,
      Buckle up your belt.

3. Activities
   a. Have each child make a model of a child in a safety seat: an oatmeal carton or shoe box for the safety seat; the "child", a sock doll, a styrofoam head on a tongue depressor, or a pipe cleaner figure; then yarn or ribbon stapled or glued across the body of the seated figure for the harness.
   b. Suggest that the children make a car out of chairs or hollow blocks and use pretend safety belts made with cloth, ribbon, or tape with velcro fastenings.
   c. Remind children to buckle up when playing in a pretend car.

C. Classroom Applications -- Older Children

1. Use the "Simon Says" game to include Simon Says, "Buckle up your belt."

2. Creative writing
   a. Make up poems and/or songs about safety seats and belts.
   b. Make up stories such as: the adventures of a safety seat, cars talking to each other about safety belts; a safety seat that was sad because it wasn't used.

3. Art
   a. Work with clay, cardboard, cloth, or a combination to design and make models of safety belts and safety seats.
   b. Make up designs for safety belts and harness straps.