

Outline of an Elementary School Curriculum in Child Passenger Safety

- I. Show Insurance Institute for Highway Safety film, Children & Infants in Crashes: Restrained and Unrestrained, and distribute materials to principal, teachers and PTA. Arrange to meet with two classes (50-60 children) at a time. Advance notice of program should be printed in school newsletter.
- II. Classroom presentation:
 - A. To teacher: full set of materials, both those for children and additional materials such as Carpool Rules, description of sponsoring group, ways to get additional material or answers. Enough copies of Letter to Parents, "Safety Belt Roulette", "The Perfect Gift: Your Child's Safety" and buckle-up sticker for one per child; instructions that two pamphlets and letter are given to each child on the day of the presentation and that a sticker, to be placed in a family car, is given to each child who returns to the teacher the letter tear-off signed by parent. Request list of names of children attending the presentation.
 - B. Materials for presenter: VHS video cassette version of IIHS film and copies of materials for distribution.
 - C. Major points of presentation:
 1. Introduce self and goal - give reasons: #1 source of death and injury for children; California statistics. Ask how many use safety belts regularly. Prepare the children that the film features dummies and that they need to be mature, even if anxious, while watching.
 2. Show film with commentary on what it shows about collision forces, direction one is thrown, common ways children ride in vehicles, point out speed of filmed crashes - 24-30 mph.
 3. Tell children about formula of forces in collision. Choose 30 mph crash and ask for average weight of child - 70-90 lbs; $75 \times 30 = 2250$ lbs. of force. Have children help calculate this on the blackboard with you. Do a couple of problems they suggest to you covering infant and adult weights.
 4. Explain how to wear a lap belt by having children touch pelvic bones, a shoulder/lap belt by touching face and neck, to avoid 2 to a belt, and then open discussion to endless questions. Be sure all of the major myths are covered.
 - a. Fire/drowning - less than 1% of vehicle crashes involve fire and water.
 - b. Ejection vs. entrapment.
 - c. School bus: why safer there than in car - "crush space"; but express own opinion about safety belts in buses.
 - d. Deal with pick-up truck and motor homes; animals loose in vehicles, unbelted passengers causing 20% of injuries in motor vehicle collisions.
 - e. Stress need to protect brain: Use of motorcycle and bicycle helmets, even skateboard protective gear, may be raised and can be reinforced.
 - f. More crashes occur at low speeds close to home.
 - g. Stress fact that many adults are unaware of this information. Encourage a chat or using "Roulette" quiz with parents.
 - h. Children will want to share experiences; depending on time available, stress questions and only a few "stories."

5. Explain about materials.
 - a. "Safety Belt Roulette" to answer safety belt questions.
 - b. "The Perfect Gift: Your Child's Safety" to share with those with younger siblings/friends and make a brief mention of special needs of younger children, such as spreading forces over a greater body area due to immature bone development.
 - c. Letter: to take home, talk with parents, return tear-off, get sticker and place sticker in family vehicle as a reminder.
 - d. Ask teacher to collect tear-offs and return them to speaker who can calculate number of children and families who followed through. Teacher may want to put "thermometer" on board to measure class participation in returning forms.

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