

Carson City Hospital Urges Parents and Caregivers to Get Their Child Safety Seats Inspected



CARSON CITY — Carson City Hospital is urging parents and caregivers to make sure their child safety seats are properly installed during Child Passenger Safety Week (September 19-25, 2010). Parents and caregivers will have an opportunity to have their seats inspected at the Carson City Hospital Community Health Expo happening Saturday, October 23. As part of our pledge to keep children safe, Carson City Hospital will have certified technicians available to provide free hands-on child safety seat inspections and advice at the Health Expo from 9 a.m. to noon at Carson City-Crystal High School West Gymnasium.

“It’s the responsibility of every single parent and caregiver out there to make sure their children are safely restrained – every trip, every time,” said Daniyel McAlvey, Service Excellence Manager at Carson City Hospital. “We are urging everyone to get their child safety seats inspected. When it

comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes.”

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) research, 8,959 lives have been saved from 1975 to 2008 by the proper use of child restraints. In 2008, among children under age 5 in passenger vehicles, an estimated 244 lives were saved by child restraint use (child safety seats and adult seat belts). Research shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age 8.

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers can visit their local inspection stations and refer to the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines that determine which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

1. For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).

3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).
4. When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week and to find the child seat inspection station nearest you visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS> and <http://www.facebook.com/childpassengersafety>.

Carson City Hospital and its 10 family-practice affiliates make up the Carson Health Network, which is committed to improving the health and wellness of the community. Carson City Hospital is a 77-bed acute-care hospital affiliated with the Sparrow Health System. Located in central Michigan, the Carson Health Network serves the communities of Clinton, Gratiot, Ionia and Montcalm counties. Its affiliated physician offices are located in Ashley, Carson City, Greenville, Fowler, Ithaca, Lyons, Maple Rapids and Stanton. You can learn more online at www.carsoncityhospital.com. Carson City Hospital: Comprehensive Care. Close To Home.