

Child Passenger Restraints

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.36(4) – Vehicle Safety. Vehicles used for transporting children shall be maintained as follows:

(f) Child Passenger Restraints

1. All children transported in a vehicle provided by or used by the Center shall be secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations. The child passenger restraining system and seat safety belts must be installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer’s directions with respect to restraining, seating or positioning the child being transported in the vehicle.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(2)(k) – When transported in a vehicle by the Provider or a Home’s employee, children shall be restrained by either individual seat belts or appropriate child restraints in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations.

Rule Type: Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To ensure compliance with state and federal legal requirements and manufacturer’s guidelines. To ensure that children are transported in a safe manner by preventing them from being thrown about or ejected from a vehicle in the event of a collision.

Clarification

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages three to fourteen in the United States. Safety restraints are effective in reducing death and injury when they are used properly. The best car safety seat is one that fits in the vehicle being used, fits the child being transported, has never been in a crash, and is used correctly every time. The use of restraint devices while riding in a vehicle reduces the likelihood of any passenger suffering serious injury or death if the vehicle is involved in a crash.

It is imperative that seats be installed according to instructions. Since there are many different brands of appropriate seats, the child care program should maintain a copy of the manufacturer’s instructions for each type of seat used by the program. Vehicles that were not manufactured with seat belts must have appropriate restraining equipment (usually a lap belt) required for proper use of child restraining systems. It may be necessary to install seat belts for this purpose in older vehicles.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care programs must ensure each child that is transported is secured in a child passenger restraining system or seat safety belt in accordance with current state and federal laws and regulations.
 - Note: Routinely checking vehicle seat belts and child passenger restraining systems to ensure they are maintained in good repair and working condition.

- TIP: Contact Safe Kids Georgia for assistance with installing child passenger restraints. Local Safe Kids Georgia coalitions can be found at the following link: <https://www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-georgia>
- Reminder: Additional information regarding child passenger restraining systems and their installation can be found at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats#age-size-rec>
- ✓ Child care program staff must install and use child passenger restraining systems in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.
 - Organizational TIP: Keep all manufacturer's directions/guidelines in a central location for easy access to all staff involved in the transporting of children.
 - Note: Identify which child passenger restraining system is appropriate for use based on the type of vehicle the center uses to transport children.
 - Reminder: Vehicle fact sheets can be found on Bright from the Start's website under the Transportation section of the Child Care Learning Center forms page at: <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/BftS/FormList.aspx?cat=Child%20Care%20Learning%20Center>

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>

Georgia Child Passenger Safety Law (40-8-76)

<https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/GA%20CPS%20LE%20card%20template.pdf>