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Using Your New Skills

Prepared by the National Child
Passenger Safety Board
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Congratulations on completing the Child Passenger Safety certification course!
Your journey has just begun!

Role After Class

- Go to the CPS Certification website – <http://cert.safekids.org>. Log onto your CPS online profile to verify that your information is correct. You will need your username and password. If you do not have these, contact CPS Customer Service at 877-366-8154 or cps.certification@safekids.org. You may want to bookmark this site as you will be using it to maintain your certification status.
- Be sure your email is set up to accept messages from the Safe Kids Certification website and the National CPS Board. You will receive emails regarding continuing education opportunities, recertification dates, curriculum updates and other important information.
- Get involved in a checkup or educational activity as soon as possible after class. Start using your newly-learned information.
- Do NOT go beyond what you have learned.
- Improve your know-how and learn different techniques by working with skilled technicians.
- Work with other technicians whenever possible, so there is an extra set of eyes on each other's work.

Stay Updated in CPS – Child passenger safety is an ever-changing field, so it will be important to stay up-to-date on new products, vehicle technology and current issues.

- Read newsletters provided by the Safe Kids Certification Program and the CPS Board. As a technician, you will receive two online newsletters:
 - CPS Express is emailed to you at the beginning of each month.
 - CPS Tech Update comes out quarterly and is emailed to you or can be found on the CPS Board website, www.cpsboard.org.
- Use national resources.
- Learn about state and local CPS committees and groups.



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- Take advantage of online continuing education opportunities offered by the CPS Board, car seat/vehicle manufacturers, etc.
- Browse stores to become familiar with different car seats, products and equipment.
- Supplement your CPS certification with specialized training such as the “Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs” course.

Be Active and Educate Your Community

- Inform key individuals in your workplace or community about your technician status.
- Answer questions and make referrals.
- Develop and provide community presentations.
- Participate in health and safety fairs.
- Provide current, culturally-sensitive materials/information.
- Set up an inspection station or organize a car seat checkup.
- Recruit new technicians.
- Use already-developed courses or curriculums, such as “Operation Kids : The Next Generation.” OP Kids is a basic awareness class for law enforcement personnel, health care providers, child care providers and fire/rescue professionals. Refer to the CPS Board website, www.cpsboard.org for information on these and other resources.

Maintain Your Certification

- Be sure your employer understands that it is important for you to participate in checkups and community events as part of the recertification process.
- Attend checkups and keep track of your seat checks. The seat checks must be overseen by a certified child passenger safety instructor or proxy.
- Your certification is good for two years. During that time, you will need to do five seat installs, including one each of a rear-facing only, rear-facing convertible, forward-facing, booster and one with LATCH. You will need to participate in one two-hour car seat checkup or community education event and obtain six hours of continuing education. Don't wait until the end of your certification cycle to start this process.
- The answers to many of your certification-related questions can be found at <http://cert.safekids.org>. Look in Resources-FAQs and the Policies & Procedures manual.

CPS Tool Kit

- You don't need much to get started. Your best bet is to participate in other checkups to learn how other technicians organize, set up and run their events.



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- Whether you set up an inspection station, organize a car seat checkup or assist parents one-on-one, you will need some basic supplies, including:
 - Car seat checkup form
 - Child restraint instructions. Parents should be advised to bring the instructions for their car seat. Other sources for this information are the Manufacturer's Instructions CD from SafetyBeltSafe. Some instructions are available through the manufacturer's websites.
 - LATCH manual from Safe Ride News
 - Vehicle owner's manual
 - Updated recall list
- Refer to NHTSA's "A Guide to Implementing Child Passenger Safety Inspection Stations," available at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/CPSInspectionStation/.
- Refer to "CPS Inspections and Checkup Events" in the Curriculum Resource section of the CPS Board.