



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

rear facing • forward facing • booster seat • seat belts

August 2015 Instructor Update:

This was sent to all Instructors and Instructor Candidates on August 15, 2015. If you did not receive please check your spam folders and make sure your email address is current in your online Safe Kids certification profile. Thank you!

Mentoring is one of the best ways we can help advance the field and make a difference. Have you ever had a mentor who has impacted your career and played an instrumental role in your life? If so, pay it forward and help a new technician or identify a technician who needs encouragement to use his/her skills. A mentor is supportive, never takes short cuts, provides constructive criticism, challenges you to stretch beyond your comfort level and helps celebrate milestones. A mentor also encourages you to think outside of the box, allows you to stumble in order to learn from your mistakes and if you go off track provides a variety of options for you to get back on track. A mentee needs to be receptive, hungry for feedback, courage to follow his/her instincts and a thirst for improving their skills and learning new ones.

The mentor/ mentee relationship can increase recertification rates and help bring new technicians into the fold to get them started in the field. Recognizing that our seasoned technicians are retiring or moving on to new challenges it is vital to pass on the knowledge to the next generation. A couple of basic guides for mentors and mentees follow: “ What makes a good mentor: <http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu/jrichardson/documents/mentor.htm>, from The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership and the Business and Legal Reports, Inc. and “How to be a good mentee: <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/observer/2011/february-11/how-to-be-a-good-mentee.html> , from Association for Psychological Science.

We encourage CPST’s to not only seek out mentors but to find someone to whom you can provide support. You can be a mentor for a new technician, an experienced technician new to your community, or even someone who might be a good educator and future technician.

Thank you for all you do to keep children safe!

National Child Passenger Safety Board
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