

CPS TECHNICIAN ROLE (CONTINUED)



Car seat checkup event



*Health and safety fairs,
community events, and educational presentations*

The primary role of the CPS Technician is to educate caregivers on the correct selection, installation, and use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts by:

- Teaching caregivers about the proper selection, installation, and use of car seats and booster seats and proper use of seat belts.
- Teaching caregivers when to move the child to seat belts once booster seats are outgrown.
- Providing caregiver education through:
 - Checkup events or by individual appointments that might be held at locations such as fire stations, car dealerships, hospitals, and retail stores.
 - Health and safety fairs and community events where information and materials are provided.
 - Educational presentations to professional groups, parent groups, and community organizations.
 - Answering caregivers' child passenger safety questions and supporting other CPS Technicians whether in person, by phone, or even by email.

CPS Technicians carry out this role with caregivers by demonstrating and explaining about:

- Selection:** Ensuring the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt is in good condition and appropriate for the child's age, height, weight, and developmental levels, as well as ensuring that the seat is not recalled.
 - Direction:** Facing the car seat in the correct direction for the age, height, weight, and developmental levels of the child.
 - Location:** Placing the car seat or booster seat in an appropriate location in the vehicle.
 - Installation:** Installing the car seat or booster seat in the vehicle correctly.
 - Harnessing:** Securing the child in the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt.
- NOTE:** Ensure that the caregiver can secure the child in their car seat in the vehicle.

THE LEARN, PRACTICE, EXPLAIN MODEL

Emphasis in this course is placed on ensuring that your learning experience will successfully prepare you to achieve the main purpose – to help caregivers safely transport their families.

To ensure you are equipped to educate caregivers so they can confidently use and install car seats, booster seats, and seat belts, this course has been designed using the **Learn, Practice, Explain (LPE) Model**.

Learn the facts/skills/information. Seek ways to stay updated. Then ...



Practice your new skills and share information.



Explain (teach) what you have learned to caregivers.

LPE principles apply to CPS Technicians, instructors, and caregivers – beginning today and continuing once you are certified.

BEST PRACTICES AND CAREGIVER CHOICES

In your role as a CPS Technician, you will:

- Identify the best way to transport a child safely.
- Explain best practices to the caregiver.

Best practice is the gold standard of protection (while following manufacturer instructions). It is the safest way to transport a child based on the child's:

- Age
- Weight
- Height
- Development levels

Often, when caregivers do not understand the reason for it, they do not choose the best practice. As a CPS Technician, it is your job to know the reason and explain it to the caregiver in simple, clear terms.

You may not always have a clear and definitive answer to provide and may have to give more than one option. This can result in a choice for a caregiver.

Caregiver choices are related to issues that may not have a clear answer on the safest way to transport a child. Caregivers will then have the final decision based on best practices you provide.

In many cases, there will be best practices related to the choices. A CPS Technician must provide caregivers with available options, making them better able to make choices about how to best secure their child in the appropriate car seat or booster seat.

As a CPS Technician, you can never support a caregiver in either breaking the law or going against manufacturer instructions. In cases where the caregiver does not make the safe choice, document it on your Check Form.

BEST PRACTICES AND CAREGIVER CHOICES (CONTINUED)

Some states provide CPS Technicians with protection from liability. But the best protection is the consistent application of best practices and thorough documentation.

J. Kevin Behrens
Former Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Representative
National Child Passenger Safety Board



CPS Technician explaining best practice to caregiver

EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE: *Children should ride in a booster seat until the adult lap-and-shoulder belt fits properly, usually when a child reaches around 4 feet 9 inches tall.*

CAREGIVER CHOICES

- The law where you live does not require children to ride in booster seats until they are between 8 to 12. Instead, the law requires only that children ride in booster seats until the age of 6.
- A caregiver wants to follow the law rather than follow best practice.
- As a CPS Technician, it is your job to help the caregiver understand the reason for the best practice.
- If the caregiver chooses to let the child ride without a booster seat, you cannot stop the caregiver from doing so. In this situation, you should help the caregiver understand the reason behind the best practice standard.
- Document the caregiver's choice not to follow best practice on the Check Form your organization uses to document seat checks.



1. How do CPS Technicians provide caregiver education?

2. What do CPS Technicians explain (teach) when they work with a caregiver?

3. What is a best practice?

4. Who is responsible for making final choices?
