

Car Seat Basics

National Training Series



Car Seat Basics

Rear-Facing Car Seats Basics • Mini-Course

Forward-Facing Car Seats Basics • Mini-Course

Booster Seats and Seat Belts Basics • Mini-Course



INSTRUCTOR Prep Guide

September 2025

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About the Car Seat Basics National Training Series

The *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series was developed through a partnership between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Safety Council, with contributions from national subject matter experts.

The primary course in the series is *Car Seat Basics*, which is divided into three focused sections: rear-facing car seats, forward-facing car seats, and booster seats/seat belts. Each of these sections is also available as a standalone mini-course:

- ✓ *Rear-Facing Car Seats Basics*
- ✓ *Forward-Facing Car Seats Basics*
- ✓ *Booster Seats and Seat Belts Basics*

Car Seat Basics, *Rear-Facing Car Seats Basics*, *Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics*, *Booster Seats and Seat Belts Basics* are a copyright of the National Safety Council.

Goals

The goals of *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series are to equip participants, who are not Child Passenger Safety Technicians, with knowledge to:

1. Take an active role in car seat and booster seat use, according to evidence-based best practices.
2. Locate local, state and national child passenger safety resources.

Curricula Overview

Content

Car Seat Basics, *Rear-Facing Car Seat Basics*, *Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics*, and *Booster Seats and Seat Belts Basics* are nationally standardized curricula. ***The content of each curriculum is designed to be delivered in its entirety and should not be altered in any way, including addition or deletion of content.***

Delivery Formats

Two delivery formats are available.

- ✓ **In-Person Training** – The selected curriculum is delivered during an in-person training by a U.S. certified Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor.

In-Person Training	Approximate Delivery Time
Car Seat Basics	90 minutes
Rear-Facing Car Seats Basics	50 minutes
Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics	35 minutes
Booster Seats and Seat Belts Basics	45 minutes

- ✓ **Online Learning** – The selected curriculum is delivered in an online learning course. Participants complete the online learning at their convenience, incrementally or all at once.

Online Learning	Approximate Completion Time	Publicly Available in Course Catalog
Car Seat Basics	60 minutes	Yes
Rear-Facing Car Seats Basics	30 minutes	By request only
Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics	15 minutes	By request only
Booster Seats and Seat Belts Basics	30 minutes	Yes

Completion Requirements

To successfully earn proof of completion, participants must:

- ✓ **In-Person Training:** Attend the in-person training in its entirety.
- ✓ **Online Learning:** Complete the online learning to 100 percent and pass the accompanying quiz with a minimum of 7 of 10 questions answered correctly.

Child Passenger Safety Technician Continuing Education Units

The *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series is a general education training and does not meet the requirements for CPST CEUs.

In-Person Training Delivery Format

Instructor Qualifications

Any U.S. certified Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor may deliver any of the trainings in the *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series.

Instructor-to-Participant Ratio

Since the *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series is a general education training, there are no instructor-to-participant ratio requirements.

Curriculum Resources

Curriculum resources supporting the in-person training delivery format of the *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series include the following:

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

- ✓ PowerPoint presentations are available for each curriculum.
 - Use of the PowerPoint presentation(s) during an in-person training is required.
- ✓ The slides in the PowerPoint presentations include key concepts and graphics to support content delivery for that course.
- ✓ The corresponding instructor notes for each PowerPoint slide are included in the Notes Page view for the slide.

Instructor Notes Page Overview

Car Seat Basics
2025

1

Where is the **MODEL NUMBER** on a car seat or booster seat?



3

MODEL NUMBER

In addition to the car seat or booster seat instruction manual, you can find a lot of information on the car seat or booster seat itself.

Knowing where to find the model number is important when it comes to finding information about the car seat or booster seat, registering the car seat or booster seat and checking for recalls.

- Information about car seat and booster seat recalls is listed by manufacturer and model number on [nhtsa.gov/recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls).

NOTES

2

In addition to the car seat or booster seat instruction manual, you can find a lot of information on the car seat or booster seat itself.

Knowing where to find the model number is important when it comes to finding information about the car seat or booster seat, registering the car seat or booster seat and checking for recalls.

- Information about car seat and booster seat recalls is listed by manufacturer and model number on [nhtsa.gov/recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls).

Click to zoom in on the label which shows the model number.

- The model number on this car seat is **4** on the back of the car seat. *(Point out the model number.)*
- While the location of the model number may vary by the manufacturer and model of the car seat or booster seat—it's always there.

5

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Have students locate the model number on a car seat or booster seat.

INSTRUCTOR NOTES
13

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| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Slide Thumbnail</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">2</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Instructor Scripting</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">3</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Visual Indicator for Slide Animation</div> </div> | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">4</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Instructor Prompt</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">5</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Suggested Optional Activity</div> </div> |
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SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- ✓ **Child Passenger Safety Resources Handout:** A one-page summary of resources reviewed during the training is available to share with the participants.
 - The Child Passenger Safety Resources handout is also available for download at cpsboard.org/car-seat-basics.
- ✓ **Proof of Completion Template:** A template for proof of completion certificate is provided.
 - It is suggested that proof of completion, print copy or via email, be given to all participants successfully meeting the [course completion requirements](#) at the end of an in-person training.
- ✓ **Course Evaluation:** The course evaluation can be distributed to participants at the end of an in-person training.
 - Customization of the course evaluation to meet local needs is permitted.

Preparing for an In-Person Training

Access Curriculum Resources

To request access to the curriculum resources, complete the [Car Seat Basics Curriculum Resources Request Form](#). The requestor must be a U.S. certified Child Passenger Safety Technician or Instructor.

Once certification is verified, the requestor will be sent an email with a hyperlink to a shared document folder on **Box**, a cloud-based file sharing platform, to access the curriculum resources including:

- PowerPoint presentations
- Proof of Completion Certificate template
- Course evaluation

NOTE: A Box account is **not** required to access the curriculum resources.

It is strongly encouraged that curriculum resources are checked for being current prior to the delivery of each in-person training. File names will indicate a revision date, as applicable.

Review Curriculum Resources

- ✓ Conduct a thorough review of the instructor notes in the PowerPoint presentation.
- ✓ Review the slides and slide animation in the Presentation view of PowerPoint.

Coordinate Equipment

- ✓ A digital projector connected to a computer's audio and video output is required to deliver the PowerPoint presentation.
 - It is helpful to have WiFi connectivity to access digital resources referenced in the training.
- ✓ Car seats and booster seats are suggested to support the optional activities.

Online Learning Delivery Format

Child Passenger Safety Learning Portal

The online learning is delivered free-of-charge in the Child Passenger Safety Learning Portal at carseateduction.org.

Group Delivery Option

A group delivery option is available for organizations wanting to use the online learning delivery format of the *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series.

Designated group admins can enroll participants in the online learning, monitor progress and run completion reports.

To learn more about managing a group, see the *How-To Guide: The Group Admin Role* in the [How-To Guides](http://carseateduction.org/how-to-guides) section of the Child Passenger Safety Learning Portal at carseateduction.org/how-to-guides.

REGISTER A GROUP

To register a group, complete the [Group Delivery of Courses Request Form](#).

Questions

For questions concerning *Car Seat Basics*, please contact safety@nsc.org or the NCPSB Support Line at 844-573-6531, which is answered weekdays during Central Time business hours.

Revisions

This is the original version of this Instructor Prep Guide.

Acknowledgements

The *Car Seat Basics* National Training Series was put together, in part, thanks to the work of countless volunteers. Without their tireless efforts and dedication, this would not have been possible.

This training was created using crowd-sourced images and video footage.

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