

CHILD AUTO SAFETY IS EASY AS ABC

"Always Buckle Children in the back seat"

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 2 to 14 years of age. A study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concluded children are safer riding in the back seat. The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education help promotes this important safety message through videos, PowerPoint presentations, handouts and interactive lessons using an interactive robotic car called "Otto the Auto."
- Buckle up every child in the vehicle properly and buckle up yourself too. Research shows that seat belts and safety seats are the most effective safety devices for preventing serious injuries and deaths in vehicle crashes. Seat belts have been shown to reduce the risk of death by 45 percent and the risk of serious injury by 50 percent. Used in combination with seat belts, child safety seats have been shown to reduce fatalities in infants by 71 percent and to children ages 1 to 4 by 54 percent. In fact, 50 percent of children killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2002 were unrestrained.
- **THE BACK SEAT IS THE SAFEST SEAT FOR ALL CHILDREN.** Whenever possible, put children in the back seat of the vehicle. Children under age 13 belong in the back seat. Studies show the risk of being killed in a crash decreases by one-third when this recommendation is followed. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that nearly 150 children have been killed in crashes because they were seated too close to an airbag.
- Always secure rear-facing infant seats in the back seat. But, never place rear-facing infant safety seats in the front seat of a vehicle with a front passenger-side air bag. The back of the safety seat in this position is too close to the inflating air bag and the infant could be killed or seriously injured.
- Air bags are lifesaving devices, but special precautions must be taken when driving children in air bag-equipped vehicles. Children risk injury and even death if they are unbelted, improperly belted or otherwise too close to the dashboard when an air bag inflates. To play it safe, always buckle children in the back seat.
- If the vehicle does not have a back seat, move the front seat as far back as possible from the dashboard and make sure the child is buckled properly in the appropriate restraint for their height and weight.