

# Buckle Buddy Resource Kit



*Missouri Coalition  
for Roadway Safety*



**South Central Region**

**[www.savemolives.com/southcentral](http://www.savemolives.com/southcentral)**

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# Buckle Buddy Program

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## Program Summary

**Objective:** The goal of the Buckle Buddy program is to teach children the importance of proper seatbelt and booster seat use. To assist children in developing safe passenger restraint habits at an early age. Increased usage of seatbelts among children as they grow will reduce the number of motor-vehicle-related injuries and fatalities in Missouri.

**Introduction:** The Buckle Buddy Program was developed for use in grades K-2. The program promotes seatbelt and booster seat use for children and aims to start them on the correct path towards road safety, and ultimately, save lives.

This is intended to be an educational, interactive, and fun program for children. Tools used in the program include:

- A Buckle Buddy Activity Book with road safety related messages.
- The Buckle Buddy Story, which teaches the children about the importance of seatbelt and booster seat use.
- The Buckle Buddy Song – An interactive activity to further reinforce the safety message. A copy of the song will be left as a resource for each participating class.
- Pledge Cards reminding the children to wear their seatbelts.
- A certificate of completion for participants.
- A thank you gift reinforcing the safety message for participants.

**Participation:** To participate in the Buckle Buddy program, a Participation Agreement Form must be completed and submitted to the South Central Coalition Regional Coordinator, Kelly Martin, at:

The Missouri Department of Transportation  
**Address:** PO Box 220, 910 Springfield Rd., Willow Springs, MO 65793  
**Phone:** 417-469-6275  
**Email:** [Kelly.Martin@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Kelly.Martin@modot.mo.gov)  
**Website:** [www.savemolives.com/southcentral](http://www.savemolives.com/southcentral)

One administrator, faculty or staff member in each school should serve as the primary contact for correspondence and information. Although only one primary contact is needed, classes may choose to group together for participation.

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## Child Passenger Safety Facts:

### From National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have laws requiring that children be restrained in motor vehicles. Child safety seats and booster seats save lives. They offer the best protection for children in the event of a crash. Over the period 1975 through 2007, an estimated 8,709 lives were saved by child restraints (child safety seats or seat belts).
- Three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- When used correctly, child safety seats are 71% effective in preventing fatalities for infants and 54% for toddlers.
- The use of belt-positioning booster seats lowers the risk of injury to children in crashes by 59% compared to the use of vehicle safety belts alone.
- According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration research, 8,325 lives of children under age 5 have been saved by the proper use of child restraints during the past 30 years.
- NHTSA recommends that children who have outgrown their child safety seats should ride in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" or taller.
- Children under 13 are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a motor vehicle.
- Check [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov) (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) to find a fitting station or technician in your area.

### Missouri Child Restraint Usage Statistics

- In 2007, 15 children less than eight years of age were killed and 1,866 were injured as occupants in motor vehicle crashes in Missouri.
- Missouri's child safety seat survey observed that when drivers were wearing their safety belt, only 3 % of their children were not buckled in. When the driver wasn't buckled up, 34 % of the children were not buckled up.

# Child Passenger Safety





## A PARENT'S PRIMER

When you're an expectant mother, it's important to always wear your seat belt to protect you and your unborn child. Wear the lap belt across your hips and below your belly with the shoulder belt across your chest (between your breasts). Once your baby is born, follow these important safety steps.

### GROWING UP SAFE: It's a four-step process.

As children grow, how they sit in your car, truck or SUV should change.

Save your child from injury or death by observing all four steps:

- 1 REAR-FACING SEATS**  For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
- 2 FORWARD-FACING SEATS**  When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
- 3 BOOSTER SEATS**  Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).
- 4 SEAT BELTS**  When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

## Get Help!

### ON THE WEB

Go to [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) and choose Child Safety Seat Information from the menu or click on the child passenger safety icon. The site includes child safety seat installation tips, product ratings, recalls, and other useful information.

### BY PHONE

For more information about child safety seats, booster seats, inspection/fitting stations in your area, seat belts, air bags, and

other highway safety issues, call the DOT Vehicle Safety Hotline at: 1-888-327-4236.

### NEAR YOU

A certified child passenger safety technician can check your installation and answer questions. To find a technician or an inspection station near you, go to [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov), click on the child passenger safety icon, and then click on the Fitting/Inspection Station link or go to [www.seatcheck.org](http://www.seatcheck.org).

**REMEMBER: All children under 13 should ride in the back seat.**

Always read the child restraint instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.



# Buckle Buddy Program

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## School Participation Form (please print)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person and Position: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



I can't wait to teach the kids how to be safe in the car!

They can be Buckle Buddies too!



**BUDDY, THE BUCKLE UP DRAGON  
EXIT SURVEY**

<b>Please rate the following items:</b>	<b><u>Strongly Disagree</u></b>			<b><u>Strongly Agree</u></b>	
<b>The “Buddy” Activity Book was age-appropriate.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The kids retained the story about Buddy.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The “Hear That Click” song is “catchy” and is a good learning tool to use even after the presenter is gone (CD left with school).</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Facts presented during the program were age-appropriate.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The promotional items given were age-appropriate.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>As a result of this program, kids will buckle up more frequently and will encourage their parents to buckle up as well.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our school would welcome another presentation for this age-group in the next 1-3 years.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>I would recommend this program to other schools.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The presenter was polite, professional, and energetic about the program.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

Please return this survey to: Kelly Martin, Regional Coordinator, Missouri Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 220, 910 Springfield Rd., Willow Springs, MO 65793.