

The Family System for Vehicle Safety

- ◆ In a crash, an unbuckled passenger can injure or kill other passengers, even if the others are buckled.
- ◆ Safety belts are the most effective safety device in vehicles.
- ◆ Small children (ages 2 to 5) who are placed in safety belts or booster seats when they are not ready are 3.5 times more likely to be significantly injured in a crash. They are 4 times more likely to receive a significant head injury.
- ◆ Children under 13 years of age are always safest in the back seat.
- ◆ Children over 4'9" tall and adults need to wear safety belts.



BUCKLE UP MONTANA

*a safety movement from
the Montana Department of Transportation*

Facts & Tips You Should Know About Child Safety Seats

- ◆ Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for Montana children, often because of improper restraints.
- ◆ Infants in rear-facing seats should never ride in the front seat of a vehicle with an active air bag.
- ◆ Infant seats should be rear-facing to at least two years of age (best to leave rear-facing to the upper limit of the particular child safety seat). **CHECK YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL FOR CORRECT HANDLE POSITION.**
- ◆ Toddlers still need a child safety seat until about 40 pounds.
- ◆ Children 40-80 pounds should be in booster seats.
- ◆ It's very important to check the manufacturer's instructions completely, and return the registration card promptly. Registration cards enable the manufacturer to alert you to any possible recalls or defects.

To make sure your child safety seat is correctly installed, or to receive a child safety seat, please call HELP Committee/Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line

to make an appointment!

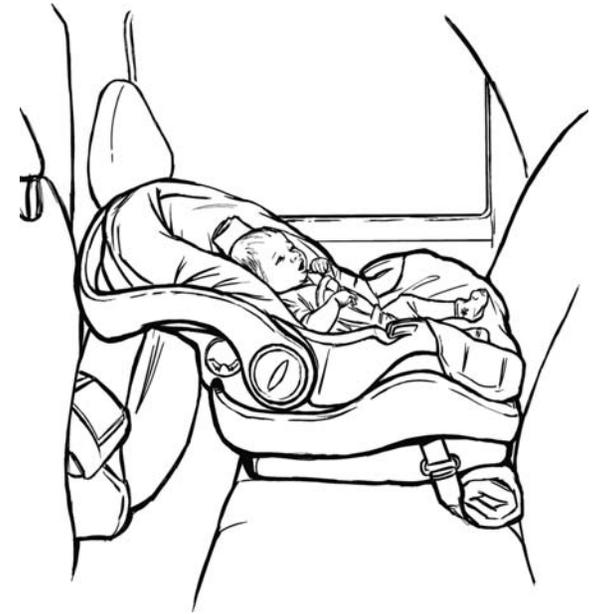
Call certified technician Mary Owens
@ 265-6206 ext. 308

Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an appointment. Appointments may also be scheduled for evenings and weekends.

**By Appointment Only.
Walk-in service is not available.**



Hill County Buckle Up MT Family Safety Fitting Station



Located at
HELP Committee/Boys & Girls Club
of the Hi-Line
500 1st Ave/P.O. Box 68
Havre, MT 59501

Program Coordinator: Mary Owens
Phone: (406) 265-6206 ext. 308
Email: maryo@bgchi-line.com

What is the Family Safety Fitting Station? Why should I go there?

- ◆ The Fitting Station provides a location where a parent or guardian can have a child safety seat inspected, fitted correctly, and even obtain one if needed. Remember, if your child has outgrown the child safety seat or booster, or if it is incorrectly installed in your vehicle, it will not properly protect your child in the event of a crash.
- ◆ Our Child Passenger Safety Technicians are trained and certified in correctly installing child safety seats and booster seats. In Montana, 90% of all child safety seats are installed and/or used incorrectly. Incompatibilities between safety seats and vehicles are common and pose a potential risk of injury in a crash.
- ◆ We make it a priority to keep informed about child passenger safety, including recalled child safety seats.
- ◆ Check your owner's manual for an expiration date. Old child safety seats can degrade and be dangerous to use beyond the expiration date.

Fitting Station Policies

1. All appointments need to be made in advance. Clients who walk in will be encouraged to make an appointment for a future date.
2. Each child may get one (1) child safety seat every two years; child safety seats need to be switched between vehicles. The Fitting Station is not responsible for providing multiple child safety seats to various family members for the same child.
3. Having the child present ensures the best installation. If it is not possible to have the child present, the height and weight of the child will be required. A future appointment to recheck the child safety seat, and the child's positioning in it, will be required.
4. Families may have child safety seat rechecks and multiple installation instructions when needed, such as for multiple vehicles.
5. Every child safety seat obtained through the Fitting Station requires that the adult recipient be instructed by the CPS technician to install the seat. The adult recipient will be able to demonstrate that he/she can reinstall the seat. The goal is to empower the caregiver to understand the installation procedure. The

Fitting Station is an educational service, not an installation service.

6. The Fitting Station is not responsible for damaged or defective child safety seats. Each child safety seat provided by the coalition will have a registration card sent in at the time of the installation. If it is later proven the child safety seat is defective or unusable, it is the manufacturer's responsibility to make necessary adjustments.

The Family Fitting Station relies on donations to be able to provide child safety seats at reduced costs and provide installation instructions. In order to keep the services available and ensure that we are able to provide as many child safety seats as possible, we suggest that parents provide a *minimum* donation equivalent to half the cost of the child safety seat, \$25.00. A larger donation is always acceptable and appreciated!

Montana State Law says children must be in a child safety seat or booster seat until 6 years of age AND 60 lbs.