

## **Safety Seat Inspections:**

Officer Kyle McCorkle, Officer Shane Hall and Detective Matthew Rychlak have earned certifications as “Child Safety Seat Technicians” and are now authorized to check all types of child safety seats to ensure that they are installed properly. Safety checks are held by appointment and can be arranged by calling the Police Department at **610-436-3311** or via email at [carseats@wcupa.edu](mailto:carseats@wcupa.edu).

Please allow for about one hour for the comprehensive inspection and remember to bring along the vehicle owner’s manual and the safety seat instruction booklet.

## **American Academy of Pediatrics Child Passenger Safety Recommendations:**

The policy statement is clear and concise as it encourages slowing the transition from one child restraint type to the next. It does this with five best practice recommendations:

- Best practice recommendation No. 1 states, “Infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their seat. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear-facing for 2 years or more.”
- Best practice recommendation No. 2 states, “Once they are facing forward, children should use a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness for as long as possible, until they reach the height and weight limits for their seats. Many seats can accommodate children up to 65 pounds or more.”
- Best practice recommendation No. 3 states, “All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their CSS should use a belt-positioning-booster until the vehicle lap-and-shoulder seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age.”
- Best practice recommendation No. 4 states, “When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use lap-and-shoulder seat belts for optimal protection.”
- Best practice recommendation No. 5 states, “All children younger than 13 years of age should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.”

A large number of child restraints with high weight harnesses and taller seat backs have been available for some time in the U.S. market. Parents may have already purchased a high weight harness seat without realizing the true benefit of it.

If you have any questions regarding this statement, please email us at [carseats@wcupa.edu](mailto:carseats@wcupa.edu).