



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kimberly VandenBosch
Communications Officer
909.386.7706
kimberly.vandenbosch@cfc.sbcounty.gov

Recognizing Child Passenger Safety Week, First 5 San Bernardino urges families to make car seat safety a priority

*Free car seat inspections, events and classes throughout San Bernardino County helps
families keep their children safe while on the move*

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (September 17, 2026) — Ahead of national Child Passenger Safety Week from September 20-26, 2026, [First 5 San Bernardino](#) is reminding parents and caregivers that a properly installed car seat is one of the simplest ways to protect a child. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death and injury for children ages 1 through 12, and nearly half of car seats are installed incorrectly, according to [the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health](#).

This safety message is an extension of the organization's annual [Kid Safe Summer](#) campaign. To prevent accidents in summer and beyond, Kid Safe Summer encourages families to make car seat safety part of every trip by choosing a seat that fits their child's age, weight and height, following the manufacturer's installation instructions and placing the seat in the back seat, away from active air bags.

These important guidelines are aligned with California's child passenger safety laws, which require children under age 8 to ride in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat of the car. Children under age 2 must ride rear-facing unless they weigh at least 40 pounds or are at least 40 inches tall.

"Families are busy, especially now that school is back in session, and sometimes we don't pay enough attention to whether a child is correctly secured in their car seat," said First 5 San Bernardino Executive Director Cindy Faulkner. "First 5 San Bernardino wants parents to know that one thing they can do to make sure their little ones are safe is to take a little extra time to make sure they are using their car seat the right way."

(more)

The following car seat safety resources are available to families countywide:

- **San Bernardino County Department of Public Health Car Seat Safety Program** — Free car seat safety classes, taught by certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, are offered twice a month in English and Spanish in the cities of San Bernardino and Hesperia. Families who complete a class and meet eligibility requirements can also purchase a car seat at low cost. To find an upcoming class or schedule a car seat check-up appointment, call 1-800-782-4264 or visit dph.sbcounty.gov/programs/health-edu/car-seat-safety-2.
- **Loma Linda University Children's Hospital / Safe Kids Inland Empire** — Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Safe Kids Inland Empire connects families with free car seat check-up events and inspection stations staffed by certified technicians. Their certified child passenger safety technician can help you find local resources to properly install and use your child's car seat. For a free appointment, contact Michelle Parker at 909.558.8118 or via email at Mparker@llu.edu.

Additional Resources through Loma Linda University Children's Hospital:

- Virtual classes: [Car Seat Safety - Mother & Baby | Loma Linda University Children's Health](#)
- SAFE KIDS "Buckle Up Van" and Child Passenger Safety information: [Programs - Patients & Families | Loma Linda University Children's Health](#)
- **California Highway Patrol Child Safety Seats Program** — California Highway Patrol offers car seat safety information, including current state law requirements and details on local car seat inspection events. Visit chp.ca.gov/programs-services/programs/child-safety-seats.
- **Arrowhead Regional Medical Center** has trained child passenger safety technicians who offer expert advice on car seat installations. Call 909-580-1376 to schedule a free car seat assessment.
- A partnership with **The Mom & Dad Project, Loma Linda University Children's Health Safe Kids Inland Empire and San Bernardino County's Children's Network** brings a car seat safety event to Big Bear Lake on September 23 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Appointments are required to receive a free car seat installation and assessment. Call 909-878-2326 to save your spot.

Families can also find car seat installation guidance, On the Move safety tips, and links to partner resources on the First 5 San Bernardino website at first5sanbernardino.org/on-the-move-safety.

About First 5 San Bernardino

[First 5 San Bernardino's](#) distinct purpose is to improve the lives of young children and their families by giving them the best possible start in life. For over 27 years, First 5 San Bernardino has been working dynamically through strategic partnerships to promote, support and enhance the health and early development of children prenatal through age 5, their families and communities. Funded through the 1998 voter-approved initiative, California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues), First 5 San Bernardino has evolved into a system where stakeholders and services are integrated, coordinated and sustainable, and one that families experience as accessible, inclusive and equitable. For more information, visit First5SanBernardino.org, [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).