

Special points of interest:

- Director Shares Knowledge at Webinar
- National Center Staff's Upcoming Talks
- CARES Airline Harness Use for Larger Children



2012

Special Needs Update

Program Director Shares Knowledge at Webinar

Judith Talty, Director of the National Center for Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs, was one of three speakers for a webinar on March 15th. The webinar was titled, "Helping Children with Special Health Care Needs - Tips for Techs" and sponsored by Safe Kids USA. The webinar was attended by 315 techs from 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. In addition to Judith Talty, Sarah Tilton of Britax, and Shayne Merritt of Merritt Manufacturing also spoke during the webinar. Of the participants who completed the feedback survey after the webinar, 29% said they were special needs trained.

National Center Staff's Upcoming Talks

Staff from the National Center office will be traveling to sunny Arizona to present "Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs for Durable Medical Equipment Providers" to over 200 participants at the National Seating and Mobility 2012 Annual Seating Symposium. This training is designed to provide durable medical equipment providers with an overview of best practice recommendations and restraint options when transporting children with special health care needs. The information in this presentation will also include helpful resources to assist parents and health care providers to ensure children with special needs are being transported safely.

Occupational therapists from the National Center have been invited back for the third year to conduct a presentation to over 50 graduate occupational therapy students at the University of Indianapolis in April. The information provided in this presentation offers students a glimpse into best practice recommendations and the importance of learning about how to safely transport children with special health care needs.

CARES Airline Harness Now Accommodates Larger Children Who Have Special Health Care Needs



CARES is a child aviation harness restraint system that is certified for airplane travel by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). CARES is a lightweight belt and buckle device for kids over 1 year, between 22-44 pounds and under 40 inches, to provide support on an airline seat during travel. CARES has recently announced this harness system can now be used by children with special health care needs even if they are over 44 pounds and 40 inches. To use CARES for a child with special health care needs, caregivers must make a request to the FAA for an “exemption” from the standard CARES height and weight limits. If you are interested in ordering this restraint for airline use for a child with special needs who is over 5 feet you may need to

purchase the “SPECIAL CARES,” which extends the waist circumference of the harness. If your child is under 5 feet tall, the standard CARES should fit your child. It is important to work with your rehabilitation therapist to ensure the CARES harness offers enough torso support for your child. For detailed information about this restraint and the exemption process, visit the CARES website at www.kidsflysafe.com.



Photos obtained from www.kidsflysafe.com

