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2013

Special Needs Update

National Center Hosts TOCAN Representative

The National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs was pleased to host Helen Lindner on March 1, 2013. Helen was nominated to represent the Australian program, The Transportation of Children and Youth with Additional Needs (TOCAN), to complete a “study tour” to the USA to learn more about programs working in child passenger safety, specifically children with special needs. TOCAN is comprised of representatives from various organizations in Australia that focus on healthcare and child passenger safety. TOCAN is a leader in research and advocacy, and has made contributions to road safety via collaboration with government, industry, and community.



Pictured (front from left): Shayne Merritt, Michelle Chappelow, Helen Lindner; (back from left): Bryanna Grant, Judith Talty

Helen was able to tour Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health, including the NICU where she was able to learn more about the policies regarding low birth weight and premature infants and their safe transportation home. In addition, Helen observed a delivery appointment of a large medical seat to a child with autism and behavior concerns. This sharing of knowledge will contribute to the development of training and resource development supporting the safe travel of children with a disability in Australia.

↑ Upcoming Updates! The National Center for Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs received funding from the National Safety Council for curricula updates. The funding will be used to update 3 curricula: “Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs,” “Improving Occupant Protection for Non-Critical Pediatric Patients in Ambulances: A Training Curriculum for EMS Personnel,” and “Transporting Low Birth Weight and Premature Infants.”

Moore Support Vest by BESI, Inc. Now Available

The Moore Support Vest by BESI, Inc. is a positioning device that can be used with a lap and shoulder belt for children or adults with special healthcare needs who weigh sixty-five pounds or more. The vest features a quick release tether strap and four-point adjustability at the shoulders and hips. The vest can be ordered in two sizes with the medium vest accommodating waist sizes 30 to 36 inches and the large vest accommodating waist sizes 38 to 44 inches. In addition, sewn on expanders are available that can increase chest and waist width for up to an additional 6 inches. The vest can be ordered to designate support (via a colored ribbon) of one of four causes with a portion of the proceeds from the Moore Support Vest going to select foundations. The ribbon colors and causes include: (Gray) Brain Cancer, (Red) Stroke, (Jigsaw Puzzle) Autism and (Green) Cerebral Palsy. For more information visit www.besi-inc.com or call 1-800-543-8222.



Autism Spectrum Disorder Research Study to be Published

The occupational therapists in the National Center completed a retrospective study on the transportation practices and behaviors of children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The study found that 74% of the children reviewed for the study demonstrated escaping behaviors, which is a large safety risk both to the child and to others in the vehicle. Parents and caregivers, as well as healthcare professionals who provide services to those with autism spectrum disorder, should be aware of services available from trained therapists and/or certified child passenger safety technicians in order to maximize safety during personal travel in the family vehicle. This research study was recently accepted for future publication in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Upcoming “Safe Travel for All Children” Course

The National Center for Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs is hosting the class “Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs” at Riley Hospital for Children on August 14-15, 2013. The class is an enrichment course for child passenger safety technicians. The cost of the course is \$300 and includes breakfast and lunch both days. The registration deadline is July 18, 2013. Please contact Bryanna Grant at the National Center, 1-800-755-0912 or blawler@iuhealth.org for more details or visit www.preventinjury.org/trainingOpp.asp to see the application form and register online.