

### Special points of interest:

- Jefferson Car Seat Available for Purchase
- National Center Staff publishes article in AJOT
- Upcoming “Safe Travel for All Children” Course



2013

## Special Needs Update

### National Center Participates in Webinar

On November 20, the National Center Staff took part in a webinar hosted by Safe Kids and State Farm to discuss restraint selections for children with special healthcare needs. Over 240 participants from 42 states, the District of Columbia, and Ontario, Canada tuned in to discover the pros and cons of conventional versus adaptive restraints, and to learn about case studies of children with special needs.

### Merritt Manufacturing’s Jefferson Car Seat Now Available for Purchase

The Jefferson car seat is a rear-facing only special needs car seat that is specifically designed for children with omphaloceles, an abdominal wall defect in which the child’s organs are contained in a thin sac outside the body. A special yoke harness circumvents the delicate area in order to prevent unwanted pressure from coming into contact with the omphalocele. For ordering information, visit [www.eztether.com](http://www.eztether.com) or call 317-409-0148.



Source: Merritt Manufacturing

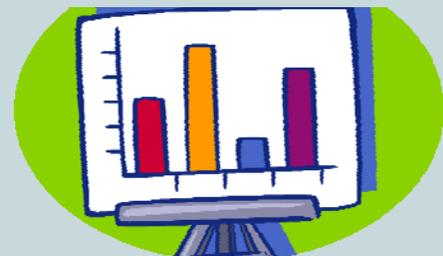
**Curriculum Updates Continue!** As a result of the funding received from the National Safety Council, the National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs continues its year-long process in updating the special needs curriculum. The curriculum will be finished at the end of February 2014. If you haven’t taken the class or simply need a refresher in transporting children with special needs, see page 2 on how to register for an upcoming class.

## American Journal of Occupational Therapy Publishes Research Article on Transporting Children with Autism

In conjunction with Drs. Marilyn Bull and Joseph O'Neil and Automotive Safety Program Director Judith Talty, Janell Yonkman and Bryanna Grant's research article titled, "Safely Transporting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Evaluation and Interventions" was recently published in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT). According to the study, a large percentage (74%) of children with autism display some form of resisting proper restraint, or escaping child safety seats or seat belts while riding in the family vehicle. Parents and caregivers, as well as healthcare professionals who provide services to those with autism spectrum disorders, should be aware of services available from trained therapists and/or certified child passenger safety technicians in order to maximize safety during travel. This research study can be found at the American Journal of Occupational Therapy publications, [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org).

## Special Needs Survey Provides Insight into Hospital Programs

The National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs sent out a 10 question survey via survey monkey to gather statewide information about hospital-based special needs transportation programs. The survey was sent to 26 recipients in Indiana and 13 responded, over half of which stated they had a special needs car seat program. Nearly 90% reported they serve both inpatient and outpatient populations and over 90% evaluate infants born prematurely prior to discharge. Respondents were also able to report what resources they felt were needed to help improve their programs.



## Registration Now Open for "Safe Travel" Class Pre-Conference at Lifesavers in Nashville, TN

The staff of the National Center will be conducting the "Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs" course on April 25-26 as a pre-conference activity of the Lifesavers Conference. The two-day class is designed to serve as an enrichment course for child passenger safety technicians who are interested in learning more about special needs transportation. This course will be instructed by the authors of the curriculum, Dr. Marilyn Bull and the staff of the National Center. The location of the course will be determined in the near future. To register for the class go to [www.preventinjury.org](http://www.preventinjury.org), select the special needs tab on the main page, then select special needs trainings. For conference registration and more information about the Lifesavers Conference go to [www.lifesaversconference.org](http://www.lifesaversconference.org).