Safe Kids Worldwide “PrevCon”

Safe Kids Worldwide’s Conference, “Prev Con” (Prevention Convention), took place July 29th - August 1st at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland. The Safe Kids Indiana State Coordinator was able to attend the conference and gain a diverse range of injury prevention training. A pre-conference meeting for all of the Safe Kids State Coordinators kicked off the festivities. Familiar voices from Safe Kids Worldwide were present. Kate Carr, President and CEO of Safe Kids Worldwide, stepped in to personally thank the small group. The conference offered a broad range of session topics and speakers from all around the world. Some of the highlights came from speakers for organizations such as NHTSA, Parent Magazine, Johnson & Johnson, the CDC, along with many Safe Kids Coalitions from all over the world.

On July 31st, National Heatstroke Awareness Day, Safe Kids Worldwide held a press conference at the hotel. The press conference included a re-enactment of emergency personnel responding to a 911 call for a child left in a hot car.

Safe Kids Worldwide holds their conference every other year, making the next conference in Summer 2017. A limited number of travel scholarships are offered. You are encouraged to mark your calendars to attend the 2017 Safe Kids Worldwide conference!

Images above and below: Heatstroke Press Conference at Gaylord Resort on National Heatstroke Day, July 31st

Safe Kids Worldwide CEO, Kate Carr, speaks at the Opening Plenary of the 2015 Conference
Every day in the United States, 44 kids are hit while walking. Teens have the highest pedestrian death rate among children ages 19 and under. It’s nearly 3 times that of 5 - 12 year olds. As we are approaching Halloween, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Since Fall brings many outdoor activities along with kids soaking up the beautiful weather, try to include pedestrian safety in any of your safety messaging.

Here are some pedestrian safety tips:

- Children under 10 years old should cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, it can be hard for kids to judge speed and distance of cars until age 10.
- Half of teens admit to crossing the street while being distracted by mobile devices. Remind them to put their devices down and take headphones off while crossing.
- 73% of teen pedestrian deaths happen between 7 PM and 7 AM. Encourage teens to walk in well lit areas, wear reflectors, cross in cross walks or at stoplights, and make eye contact with drivers.
- It’s never too late to teach pedestrian safety when entering and exiting the school bus. Many children think the bus stop sign ensures everyone will stop. Remind school aged children to always look before crossing the street. Children should also make eye contact with their bus driver before stepping on the road to enter the bus.

For many more pedestrian safety tips and resources, see the Safe Kids Worldwide website: Pedestrian Safety. If you are a Safe Kids Coalition, be sure and visit the Network Resource Center for an in-depth collection of pedestrian safety resources.

The How To Not Get Hit By A Car infographic and many other pedestrian safety resources are on the Safe Kids Worldwide website, http://www.safekids.org/walkingsafelytips.

For questions about Safe Kids Coalitions, please contact Jody Yoder at 317-278-6879 or jodyoder@iu.edu.