



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Otsego County

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY WHEN IT COMES TO CHILD SAFETY SEATS

A Tip from the Safe Kids Coalition of Otsego County

Think twice before buying a used child safety car seat, especially from a yard sale or secondhand (consignment) shop. The life you risk may be your child's. Normal wear or involvement in an accident could limit the child safety seat's effectiveness. If a child car seat is in a crash, it should be replaced, as stress points may cause the seat to fail with continued use. Regular wear can cause the straps to become frayed and lose their strength, the plastic shell and metal frame unstable and the restraining clips and buckle weak from use. A car seat that is more than 6 years old, missing the manufacturer's label showing the name of the manufacturer, model number, and date of manufacture, or missing parts should not be used. Make sure your child's seat is a safe seat. This is one of the most important decisions and purchases you'll make!

Have your child's car seat checked by a nationally certified technician at one of the upcoming Safe Kids events: July 13, Price Chopper parking lot, Richfield Springs; August 22, Wal-Mart parking lot, Oneonta, or September 14, Cooperstown Fire Department. All events are from 3-6pm. If you are unable to make one of these events, you can have your child's seat checked at AAA in Oneonta (432-4512) or Otsego County Health Department in Phoenix Mills (The Meadows) by contacting 547-6421 for an appointment.

This message is brought to you by the Safe Kids Coalition of Otsego County.