

FEATURED

Free car seat safety checks in Southington

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Child car seats
Contributed



SOUTHINGTON — The Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington and the Southington Police Department are sponsoring free child car seat safety checks Saturday, Sept. 6.

The safety checks will be offered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Calendar House at 388 Pleasant St.

“Connecticut’s car seat safety regulations have weight and age requirements and impact all children under the age of eight,” said Joanne Kelleher, executive director of the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington. “The Southington Police Department has several certified child passenger safety seat officers to perform the checks, which will occur on a first-come, first served basis.”

Kelleher said the technicians will check the car seat to see if it's expired or recalled. Then, they will obtain the height and weight of the child to make sure the seat properly fits. If necessary, they will adjust harness straps to fit the child before the installation.

Then, they will install the seat, making sure to teach and answer questions as they install.

"The technicians may even walk the adults through installing the seat themselves, to ensure they know how to install the seat safely for the child," she said. Educational materials will also be available.

Kelleher said that, since this is an educational event, any installation or usage issues identified during the car seat safety check will be corrected and police will not be issuing tickets for car seat violations.

"Parents and grandparents tell me that they struggle with car seat installation and getting their child to fit comfortably so this is an opportunity to have a trained expert help them," said Kelleher. "I have attended several of these car seat safety clinics and I always learn something new."

Funding for this event has been provided by The Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation.

Car seat safety checks are also available by appointment from the Southington Police Department.

For more information, visit southingtonearlychildhood.org/car-seats-laws/.

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