



NEW LOCATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORT TEAM'S CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS

HICKORY, NC –The child passenger safety seat inspection station operated by Catawba County Public Health's Early Childhood Support Team has moved to the team's new offices, which are located with the Catawba County Partnership for Children at 738 4th Street SW in Hickory.

Child passenger safety seat inspections are provided to the public at no cost and can be scheduled at this location by calling the Early Childhood Support Team at (828) 695-6595 or (828) 695-6576.

Motorists are advised to bring their vehicle, child, and child passenger safety seat to their appointment. During the visit, Early Childhood Support Team staff will review the installation of the seat and demonstrate how to correctly install and remove it according to manufacturer recommendations. Staff will also make sure the child is properly secured in the seat.

Children under eight years of age or under 80 pounds are required by law to be properly restrained in an approved child passenger safety seat while riding in a car. National statistics show that a majority of child safety seats are not installed properly.

"Child safety seats and vehicles vary greatly, so getting the installation right can be a real challenge," said Tonya Moss, RN, Early Childhood Support Team, Catawba County Public Health. "Our goal is to give parents confidence in their use of child safety seats to help ensure their children are as safe and secure as possible inside their vehicles."

The Early Childhood Support Team is one of many local agencies providing child safety seat inspections through the Safe Kids Catawba County child passenger safety initiative. Recently, the team's nurses and other Safe Kids partners conducted 344 documented car seat inspections during the United Way's Christmas Bureau two-day event. The majority of the seats checked during that event had not been installed properly.

Catawba County Public Health's Early Childhood Support Team is a Smart Start funded project through the Catawba County Partnership for Children.

Located off Fairgrove Church Road behind Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health provides health and education services to eligible men, women, and children in the community. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"