

## Special Seats for Special Kids

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Senior Checker, Certified Special Needs Certified  
Child Passenger Safety Technician  
Safe Kids Upstate, Greenville, SC

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## Safe Kids Upstate led by Children's Hospital of Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center

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## Brief Overview of SKU

- We have been in operation for 16 years and have had an active Buckle Up program for 15 years.
- We have 8 staff members, 5 of which are trained as CPS Technicians. In addition, 1 staff member has special needs certification.
- Kidnetics supplies SKU with one additional special needs certified technician who is a PT.
- We have checked approximately 15,000 car seats at our 6 CSSI sites, 75 of which were special needs seats.

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### History of Our Special Needs Program

- In 2007, Safe Kids Upstate held 1 training for the state of South Carolina.
- Our program has grown so that we now have 6 Special Needs Technicians in the Upstate all affiliated with Safe Kids Upstate.
- We held one special needs fitting for families without appointments during our Special Needs Training. This experience taught us many lessons.



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### History of Our Buckle Up Program

- We started with one public check up event at a local GM dealer.
- The following year, we moved our check up event to Bradshaw Automotive in Greer.
- Our car seat check up events increased to 2 events a year, then 4 a year and then into 6 permanent CSSI inspection stations.
- Through these events and partnership with Bradshaw Automotives came funding for one of the first pilot CSSI stations.



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### A Few Facts About Us

- Greenville County:
  - 790.08 square miles
  - Population 451,428
- Pickens County:
  - 496.89 square miles
  - Population 71,514
- Oconee County:
  - 625.41 square miles
  - Population 118,144



Safe Kids Upstate covers a total of 1912.38 square miles and a total population of 641,086.



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### Building Relationships

- Prove yourself
- Find a common ground
- Never give up
- **Never say no to media IF it is your area of expertise.**




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### Funding & Sponsorships

- We receive funding from our lead organization
- Our program sponsor, Bradshaw Automotive, donated the largest one time gift to any local coalition.
- We have sponsors for each of our initiatives--Safe Kids "At Home", "At Play", "At School", and "On the Way" (Buckle Up).
- RE/MAXX is our "At Home" sponsor.
- Michelin North America is our "At School" sponsor.
- Kohl's is our "On the Way" sponsor through the Kohl's Cares program.
- We receive in-kind funding and grants from Safe Kids Worldwide.




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### How we operate Our Special Needs Program

- We have a total of 6 special need technicians in the Upstate of South Carolina.
- We receive referrals from physicians, allowing for insurance preapproval.
- We have post op fittings for Spica Casts.
- We see children from the hospital in the general Pediatrics, Pediatric ICU, Neonatal ICU, and our Rehab Hospital
- Insurance is filed by Kidnetics .




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## Spica Cast

- The staff and Kidnetics staff work in partnership with the pediatric orthopedic surgeon .
- The family is consulted in the hospital and the seat is fit to the child.
- We then install the seat at our Medshore Ambulance site, located across the street from the hospital.
- Once the seat is installed, the family is then ready for discharge.
- The family is reminded to bring their car seat the day the cast is to be removed.
- Our staff is responsible for picking up the Hippo at the doctor's office and cleaning the seat.



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## General Pediatrics

- We see children with many health issues in our Children's Regional Hospital.
- Once we receive a referral from the doctors, we see the family in the hospital.
- We bring various seats for the child to try before the family purchases the seat. If the family is unable to purchase the seat, SKU covers the cost.
- We always try to use the conventional seat if at all possible to save money.



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## Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital

- This is a rare referral that usually involves older children.
- The doctor will order a special needs car seat referral.
- This process needs to start early with many visits as the patient's progress may change over the course of rehab.
- Once the car seat is shipped to the durable medical equipment supplier, we bring the family back to fit the seat to the car.



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### Very Special Partners

Medshore Ambulance Services

- Located right across the street from our main hospital
- Their staff welcomes our families with open arms
- They provide special needs trained staff
- They house our fitting seats
- They have an open door policy for us



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### Contact Information

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