

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**September: Caring for Our Kids – Diaper Need Awareness and Child Passenger Safety Week**

The Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition (FKHSC) recognizes that September is a significant month dedicated to raising awareness about two critical national issues impacting families and children: Diaper Need Awareness and Child Passenger Safety. These initiatives emphasize the importance of ensuring every child has access to basic necessities like clean diapers and safe transportation.

Nationally, Child Passenger Safety Week is from September 15th to 21st, 2024. This vital campaign promotes the proper use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts to protect children on the road. Car accidents are a leading cause of death for children, but many of these fatalities are preventable with the correct use of child restraints. After detailed checks by the Coalition's Child Passenger Safety Technicians, we found that 74% of car seats are either misused or not installed correctly. This highlights a critical need for increased awareness and education on proper car seat use.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children remain in rear-facing car seats as long as possible, up to their car seat's height or weight limit. This guidance, along with proper installation and use of car seats, significantly reduces the risk of injury in the event of a crash. To help parents and caregivers navigate the complexities of child passenger safety, FKHSC offers free car seat checks and installations led by certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST).

Alongside Child Passenger Safety Week, September hosts National Diaper Need Awareness Week from September 23rd to 29th, 2024, and it shines a light on a challenge many families face but rarely discuss—the inability to afford enough diapers to keep their babies clean, dry, and healthy.

According to the National Diaper Bank Network, 1 in 3 families in the United States struggles with diaper needs, a situation that can lead to serious health risks for babies and stress for parents. Clean diapers are not just a necessity but a fundamental aspect of a child's well-being, contributing to their overall health and development.

Moreover, the impact of diaper needs extends beyond health concerns. Without an adequate supply of diapers, parents are often unable to bring their children to daycare, which typically requires a daily supply of clean diapers. This barrier prevents parents from attending work, further creating financial hardships and a cycle of instability that is difficult to break. The simple act of providing diapers can empower parents to secure and maintain employment, ultimately supporting their families and contributing to the community's economic well-being. You can support the Keys community and make it safer by taking a look at our [Amazon wishlist](#).

Together, we can meaningfully impact the lives of families and children in the Keys. Whether it's ensuring every child rides safely or providing essential supplies like diapers, your support makes a difference. Join us this September in our mission to create a safer, healthier community for all.

For more information about the Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition's car seat inspection services, how to contribute to our efforts, or to request our services, visit [KeysHealthyStart.org](http://KeysHealthyStart.org) or contact us at 305-293-8424. Let's work together to build a safer, stronger community for our children.

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***Pictured:***

