

How to Become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator:

Overview

Basic Education for Safe Travel (B.E.S.T.) Facilitators play a crucial role in ensuring foster and daycare providers are properly trained on the correct use of child restraint systems. To become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator, you must meet specific qualifications, be approved by a certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Liaison and complete the required steps to receive your official certification.

Who Can Become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator?

To be eligible to become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator, you must hold one of the following credentials:

- 1. Child Passenger Safety Technician Proxy (CPST-Proxy)** A CPST-Proxy has completed the necessary training and certification to review and approve seat checks for recertification.
- 2. Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor (CPST-I)** A CPST-I is a certified instructor who is authorized to teach the CPST certification courses and train others to become or to recertify as technicians.

Steps to Become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator:

- **Obtain CPST-Proxy or CPST-I Status**

If you are not already a CPST-Proxy or CPST-I, you must first complete the certification process through Safe Kids Worldwide. This involves becoming a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) and meeting the necessary requirements to obtain Proxy or Instructor status.

- **Contact a CPS Liaison for Approval**

Once you have CPST-Proxy or CPST-I status, you must reach out to one of the following CPS Liaisons for approval to become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator. The liaison will verify your credentials, ensure you understand the B.E.S.T. process, and answer any questions you may have about the B.E.S.T. Program:

- Sheila Denton, Southern CPS Liaison
- Randi Smith, Northeast CPS Liaison
- Jasmine Wangen, Northwest CPS Liaison

- **Complete the Facilitator Approval Process**

The CPS Liaison will provide you with the necessary paperwork, including guidelines and the B.E.S.T. curriculum materials. You must review and familiarize yourself with the Car Seat Basics online course (Step 1) and the in-person, hands-on training requirements (Step 2).

- **Receive Your Facilitator Certificate**

After completing the B.E.S.T. Facilitator approval process, you will receive a certificate verifying that you are an official B.E.S.T. Facilitator. This certificate authorizes you to conduct B.E.S.T. training sessions for caregivers and provide the hands-on skills instruction.



How to Become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator:

- **Begin Facilitating the B.E.S.T. Program**

Once certified, you can begin offering the B.E.S.T. Program to foster parents and daycare providers. Facilitators must adhere to the B.E.S.T. guidelines, ensuring that all participants receive the proper training and can demonstrate their understanding of child restraint safety.

What's Expected of a B.E.S.T. Facilitator?

- **Facilitate Hands-On Training:** Provide in-person, hands-on sessions where caregivers can demonstrate their ability to properly install and use car seats or booster seats in their vehicles
- **Provide Individualized Instruction:** Work with participants to ensure they understand the correct use and installation of car seats or booster seats in their vehicles.
- **Sign Evaluation Forms:** After successful completion of the in-person skills training, provide each participant with a signed B.E.S.T. In-Person Evaluation Form.
- **Ongoing Learning:** Stay updated on car seat safety guidelines and participate in continuing education to maintain your credentials as a CPST-Proxy or CPST-I.

What is Required to Facilitate?

- **Materials:** B.E.S.T. Facilitators need minimal supplies. Participants must bring their own car seats and/or booster seats and vehicles to the session. If necessary, the B.E.S.T. Facilitator may provide equipment such as training dolls, car seats, booster seats, or vehicles.
- **Location:** Facilitators can hold the in-person skills evaluation session in various settings, such as car seat checkup events or in partnership with local fire departments, law enforcement, or car dealerships. Please note that a virtual meeting is not an option for the hands-on skills evaluation (Step 2).
- **Time Commitment:** The in-person evaluation typically takes about 60-90 minutes, focused on hands-on, interactive learning.

Why Become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator?

- **Make a Difference:** Help caregivers learn how to properly secure children in vehicles, ensuring safe transportation for every ride.
- **Expand Your Impact:** Share your knowledge and expertise with others while supporting child safety across the state.



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Questions?

To become a B.E.S.T. Facilitator or if you have questions about the process, please reach out to one of the CPS Liaisons:

- **Sheila Denton, Southern CPS Liaison**
(507) 236-8152 or sheila.denton@scmnems.org
- **Randi Smith, Northeast CPS Liaison**
(320) 469-8727 or rsmith@brahammn.gov
- **Jasmine Wangen, Northwest CPS Liaison**
(701)780-1660 or jwangen@altru.org

