

## Vehicle Safety

This leaflet provides advice on how you can help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe in vehicles. The Children's Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe - call 020 8274 6854 for further information.

Children with challenging behaviour may have little awareness of danger and may need additional car seat restraints or specialist car seats to keep them safe while travelling in a vehicle.

### General considerations

- It is not safe to hold a child on your lap, even if you are using a seat belt. If the vehicle is involved in an accident the child could be injured. It is legal requirement for all passengers to wear passenger restraints.
- When a child has an additional restraint the carer and passengers in the vehicle should be aware of how to unfasten it in the event of an emergency.
- Always ensure that car seats are correctly fitted in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

### Examples of Possible Solutions

- Harness used in conjunction with the vehicle seat belt. Some harnesses are specifically designed for children with challenging behaviour. Crelling offer a sale or return facility to allow a 14 day trial period. If the harness is not returned they will invoice for the goods. If the harness is returned there is a charge for postage and packing.
- The Unisafety Easy Travel Magnet Harness is worn like a waistcoat and has a special magnetic key used by the parent or carer.
- Specialist car seats with a 5-point harness can be purchased and suit children up to about twelve years of age.

### Examples of Suppliers

#### Harnesses:

- Crelling Harnesses, [www.crelling.com](http://www.crelling.com) 01253 852 298
- Windmill Special Needs – Unisafety Easy Travel Magnet Harness, [www.windmillspecialneeds.co.uk](http://www.windmillspecialneeds.co.uk) 0161 345 5361

#### Specialist Car Seats:

- In-Car Safety Centre, [www.incarsafetycentre.co.uk](http://www.incarsafetycentre.co.uk) 01908 220 909

The lists of companies provided in these information leaflets are not approved lists. Croydon Council and Croydon Health Services accept no liability with regard to any purchases from the companies listed. The list of companies provided is not exhaustive.

**Your questions and comments:**

PALS offers assistance, advice and support for patients and their families. The PALS office is open to callers from 9am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. Telephone number 020 8401 3210.