



Ride Safe Program Success



The Ride Safe Child Passenger Safety Program is a Head Start-based child passenger safety program that provides curriculum, child safety seats, and training to Head Start staff, parents, and community partners.

Through the Ride Safe Program, the St. Croix Head Start in Wisconsin provides child safety seats to Head Start children living in eight communities on the Reservation. Janet Nelson, St. Croix Head Start, and Kathy Dittmar, Honoring our Children Program, co-coordinate the Ride Safe Program. They state: "here at St. Croix we truly feel if it were not for the Ride Safe Program we would not have had the ability to give hands-on education and age appropriate car seats to tribal families. Without the Ride Safe Program, many children would be without car seats."

Ms. Dittmar learned of the following story from Sherry Soulier, mother of two, who had requested replacement child safety seats for those that had been involved in a motor vehicle crash. Ms. Soulier received child safety seats and installation training from the St. Croix Ride Safe Program in 2005. She credits the child safety seats for protecting her children, Hailey and Humsa, from possibly serious injury during a car crash in October 2006. While on a trip to Minneapolis, they were stopped waiting to make a left turn with the green arrow. A vehicle in the opposite lane ran his red light, striking Ms. Soulier's van in the side. Fortunately, neither of the children were injured during the crash.



"If my children had not been safely in their car seats in the back seat, I know they would have been thrown to the floor...." Sherry Soulier



The Ride Safe Program is funded by the Indian Health Service, IHS Head Start, and Emergency Medical Services for Children. For more information visit <http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/InjuryPrevention/index.cfm>