

Special points of interest:

- Dr. Marilyn Bull Travels Abroad
- National Center OTs to Present Poster at Conference in Indianapolis
- National Center Staff will Travel to Orlando for Pre-Lifesavers Course
- Coming Soon... A New and Improved National Center Brochure

Winter

2011-2012

Special Needs Update

Dr. Marilyn Bull Travels Abroad to Present on Child Passenger Safety

Dr. Marilyn Bull received the opportunity to make two presentations to an international audience this Fall. The first was a paper on “Important Child Occupant Safety Trends in Indiana between 2005 and 2010” at the 55th Annual Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine in Paris, France on October 3, 2011. She shared information on the trends and changes in child passenger practices in Indiana on back seat transport, rear facing, and top tether use noted in the state wide surveys. The reduction in motor vehicle related fatalities among infants and children is considered a public health victory and are the combined efforts of the child passenger safety, law enforcement, public safety, and medical communities.

Dr. Bull was also invited to present in Munich, Germany for the 9th Annual International Conference, Protection of Children in Cars. This conference is a worldwide platform for car restraint systems research and development, for child accident research, biomechanics, as well as for consumer information and safety testing. Dr. Bull presented “Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs” on December 1, 2011. Children with a wide spectrum of medical problems are transported every day to school, medical appointments and family events. Many of these children have conditions that require special consideration to ensure that their transportation is conducted as safely as possible. The medical needs may be developmental, skeletal, physiologic or behavioral and each situation is unique and needs individual consideration. These children may be transported safely in a conventional car safety seat or may need a specially designed child safety restraint. Dr. Bull spoke on the common transportation problems associated with special needs and the unique resources currently available.



Dr. Bull has a passion for the knowledge, advancement and teaching of safe travel for all children with and without disabilities and inspires other health professionals to want to understand and do more to make a difference in this area. It is her desire to protect our most fragile investment and to educate others to do the same.

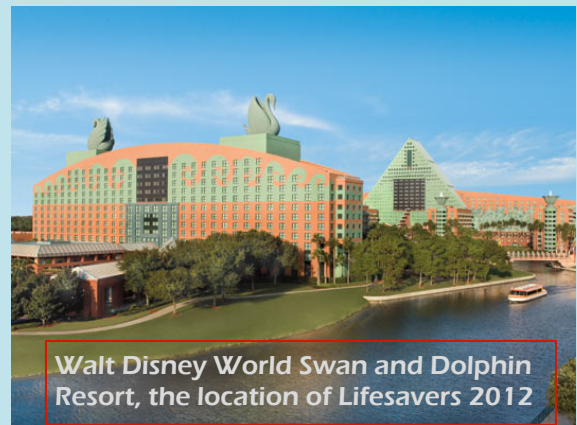
National Center OTs to Present Poster at Conference in Indianapolis

Occupational therapists for the National Center, Laura Novak MS, OTR and Janell Yonkman's MS, OTR poster proposal was accepted for presentation at the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) 92nd Conference and Expedition. The dates of the AOTA Conference are April 26-29, 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Indiana Convention Center. The poster entitled: Safely Home: The Occupational Therapist's Role in Providing Travel Recommendations for Low Birth Weight and Premature Infants will be presented on April 28th, 2012 at 2:30 in the afternoon. The purpose of the poster presentation will be to enhance occupational therapy practitioners' knowledge of the occupational therapist's role in child restraint selection and providing best practice recommendations for low birth weight and premature infants.

National Center Staff will Travel to Orlando for Pre-Lifesavers Course

The National Center Staff will travel to Orlando to teach "Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs." The class will tentatively be held on June 12-13, 2012 to precede the Lifesavers conference which begins on June 14th. Check

<http://www.lifesaversconference.org/pre-postactivities.html> for updates on the pre-Lifesavers training and for registration information, or visit www.preventinjury.org for other upcoming "Safe Travel" courses.



Coming Soon... A New and Improved National Center Brochure

Due to the growing market, an updated version of the National Center brochure is underway! Although not all inclusive, the brochure reflects a more diverse selection of products geared towards transporting children with special healthcare needs. From car beds to adaptive booster seats, some products are completely new to the scene, while others have simply been updated. To order your new brochure, please visit www.preventinjury.org. Brochures should be available in 4-6 weeks' time.