If you are a parent or caregiver considering a childcare, after school or camp provider who offers transportation as part of your agreement, here are some important questions you will want to ask. In addition, below are questions that are equally important to ask of a relative, friend, neighbor, or anyone else who is driving your child. Your child cannot ask these questions. They depend on you to ask for them!

**Before you contract with a paid provider who may transport your child, ask these questions:**

1. Who will drive my child, and can you verify they have a clean driving record?
2. What type of vehicle is used for transporting children?
   a. Does the vehicle type have proper restraints based on the age/height/weight of the child being transported?
   b. Are school buses with seat belts used to transport children? (field trips, after school programs, etc.)
   c. When was the vehicle last inspected (brakes, tires, windshield wipers, turn signals, etc.)?
3. IF A SCHOOL BUS IS USED: What training is the driver provided so they can properly secure my child in a restraint that fits (car seat, seat belt)? *Note: BOOSTER SEATS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED ON A SCHOOL BUS.*
4. IF PARENT VOLUNTEER CARS OR VANS ARE USED: What training is the driver provided so they can properly secure my child in a restraint that fits (car seat, booster seat, seat belt)?
5. Will I provide a car seat for my child, or will you? (*Note: BOOSTER SEATS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED ON A SCHOOL BUS.*) If you provide, can you verify that it:
   a. Is recall free?
   b. Has never been in a crash?
   c. Has all its original parts?
   d. Hasn't expired?
   e. Is the proper height, weight for the child?
   f. Has a harness that is easily adjusted to accommodate different sized children?
6. Will my child ever ride in a vehicle that is not owned or rented by the childcare provider?
   a. If yes, will I be notified, and do they pass the same test as a paid driver?
7. Has the provider/driver received any formal CPS training with a certification (preferred)?
8. Does the provider/driver have enough working seat belts for every occupant to have their own?
9. How often do drivers have to renew or participate in training related to transporting children?
   a. verify they have a driver's license, safe driving record, are insured?
   b. certification or training to properly restrain children?
   c. notify me if there is a change in drivers?
10. If a substitute driver is required, is there a policy to (all highly recommended):
    a. verify they have a driver's license, safe driving record, are insured?
    b. certification or training to properly restrain children?
    c. notify me if there is a change in drivers?
11. How often do substitute drivers have to renew or participate in training related to transporting children?
When transportation is contracted through the paid provider, ask these questions:

1. What are the procedures followed for transporting children?
   a. What emergency information is in each vehicle (contacts, allergies, protocol, etc.)?
   b. How will I be notified if an emergency occurs?
   c. Who is responsible for checking the vehicle at the end of each trip to ensure no child is left on the vehicle?
   d. What type of checklists are used (roster of children, emergency contacts, protocol for assuring all children are accounted for and out of the vehicle after every trip)?

2. What steps do you take to be sure my child is never alone on the vehicle?

When a family member, friend or carpool driver transports your child, consider asking these questions:

1. When can I show you how to use my car seat in your car?
   a. Can the driver demonstrate proper installation?
   b. Can the driver demonstrate proper harnessing?

2. Will you always use my child's car seat or booster seat for them on every ride?

3. Will you always make sure each person in the car has their own car seat, booster seat or seat belt?

4. Does everyone in your car use a restraint? All adults and kids?

5. When are you likely to let the kids ride without car seats, booster seats or seat belts:
   a. Too many kids?
   b. Not enough seat belts?
   c. No car seats?
   d. Short trip?
   e. During an emergency?
   f. Never?

6. Does the driver have:
   a. a valid driver's license?
   b. clean driving record?
   c. car insurance?
   d. a weapon in the car?
   e. parent emergency contact information?

7. Does the driver agree to never leave your child alone in the car?

8. Is the child comfortable going with the family member?
   a. Does the child know the family member?

You may have to decide if you want your child in the vehicle. It is not always easy, but your child cannot ask these questions. Listen to your child if they tell you they are uncomfortable getting in the car with the family member or friend and ask more questions to find out why.

For more child passenger safety information enter your state at the bottom of this web page to contact your state highway safety office: https://www.nhtsa.gov/about-nhtsa. They can help you find a child passenger safety expert near you.

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