Child Safety Seats for the Expecting Mother

Why Use Child Safety Seats:
- Quite simply put, child safety seats save lives
- A properly installed safety seat can reduce fatal injury by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers

Safety Seat Laws:
- Both Georgia and South Carolina require that infants be restrained in a child safety seat, and seats must be installed according to manufacturers instructions

Choosing a child safety seat for your new baby:
- Seat must be approved for rear-facing use
- If your child is less than five pounds and will be transported in a child safety seat, then you will need to choose a seat that is rated for this weight
- Many seats are approved for babies who are five or more pounds and can therefore use an infant carrier or a convertible seat
- Small babies are safest in a five point harness system

Recommendations:
It is the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics, National SAFE KIDS Campaign, National Traffic Highway Safety Administration and MCG Children’s Medical Center to:
- Bring your child safety seat with you to the hospital when you deliver
- Install rear facing child safety seats in the back seat
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an active air bag
- Be sure you are using the correct belt path to install the seat
- Safety seat should not move more than one inch side-to-side or front-to-back
- Seats should be installed at no more than a 45° angle or according to markings on seat if available

Recommendations, continued:
- Carrying handle should be in the down position during vehicle travel unless otherwise stated by manufacturer
- Baby should sit all the way in the seat with no space behind the back or buttock
- Maintain rear-facing position as long as possible
- Minimum requirement to turn seat forward-facing is both 1 year and 20 pounds
- Retainer clip, plastic guide on harness straps, positioned at armpit level
- Harness straps snug with no slack and unable to pinch up excess material
- Rear facing harness straps in the slots at or below the baby’s shoulders
- Do not use add-on products that did not come with the seat as they may interfere with how the seat is supposed to work
Resources:

SAFE KIDS of East Central Georgia led by MCG Children’s Medical Center Programs:
Call 721-KIDS for more information on any of these programs.

- Car Seat Inspection Stations - Certified technicians will inspect the installation of your child safety seat by appointment
- CAR SEAT Class; Children And Restraints Safety Education And Training – $5.00 per family
- Class teaching proper child passenger safety
- Help in getting a car seat to families financially eligible