

**B-H-K Child Development Board
700 Park Avenue
Houghton, Michigan 49931**

Serving Children & Families
through:
Head Start/Preschool,
Early Start,
Child Care,
Even Start,
AmeriCorps, and
Other Family Services

TELEPHONE (906) 482-3663
800-236-5657
FAX# (906) 482-7FAX
e-mail: bhk@up.net
WEB PAGE: bhkresources.org

Gale Eilola
Board Chairperson
Jim Waara
Council Chairperson
Rod Liimatainen
Director

To: The Daily Mining Gazette, L'Anse Sentinel, MTU Lode,
WCCY/WOLV, WCUP, WGGL-FM, WMPL/WZRK, WUPY,
WBUP-TV5, WLUC-TV6, WMTU, WNMU

From: B-H-K Child Development Board

Contact: Mary Van Orsdel, 337-3333

Date: Jan. 18, 2002



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parents should register for safety-seat clinics

A quick, toll-free call to the Parent Helpline is all that's required

HOUGHTON – Effective immediately, parents with young children have a quick and easy way to register for upcoming car safety seat clinics being conducted by B-H-K Child Development Board and the Michigan State Police.

By making a toll-free call to the Parent Helpline (1-888-610-2323), parents may schedule an appointment for clinics to be held on or after Feb. 9 at sites in Baraga and Houghton counties. (See attached list). There are five clinics scheduled before Feb. 9 in Calumet and Mohawk; for these, parents should contact the clinic sites directly.

Personnel at the Dial Help, which operates the Parent Helpline, are ready to start taking appointments, said Celine Grace, a Dial Help staff member.

“We can start scheduling right away for clinics scheduled on and after Feb. 9,” she said.

(more)

At the clinics, parents with children from age 0 to 8 may have their existing safety seats' crash history, recall status, installation and serviceability checked. If a seat need replacement, one will be provided free of charge.

It's critical that parents have their safety seats checked, said Mary Van Orsdel, B-H-K's certified child passenger safety technician.

"In past clinics, we've found that some 95 percent of car seats inspected were installed incorrectly or unsafely," Van Orsdel said. "By coming to a clinic, parents will learn correct installation, they'll learn whether their seat has been recalled and they'll have the possibility of receiving a replacement seat for the one that has been damaged or is outdated."

Through grants and gifts, B-H-K and the Michigan State Police have received numerous car seats for infants and toddlers and booster seats older children. Most recently, B-H-K received 1,100 booster seats from the Ford Motor Co. to properly restrain children who are too big for car seats yet too small for seat belts alone – generally children between 40 and 80 pounds.

In addition to taking registrations for car-seat clinics, the Parent Helpline serves as a hotline for parenting questions of any nature. The Helpline is funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Education.