

Pointers For Parents

Quick Tips For Safe And Sane Family Travel

(NAPSA)—Millions of Americans will take to the roads for vacations with visions of togetherness and family fun. Without a bit of preparation, however, your vacation may not be the trip to the beach you imagined. Here are a few tips to help your family survive even the longest journeys:

- **Watch Out for UFOs—**

Most parents assume when their kids are buckled into their car seats, they'll be safe in a crash. But what parents don't realize is that unsecured items lying around the vehicle—such as pop cans, baseballs or coolers—can become flying weapons in a crash. Store any loose articles in the trunk or, if you are traveling in a minivan or station wagon, be sure any potential hazards are secured in cargo nets or other harnesses.

- **Boost Safety and Comfort—**While most parents recognize the need to properly restrain infants and toddlers in a child restraint, they are often unaware of the need to also protect older children. Generally, children ages 4 to 9 are not big enough for adult safety belts to fit safely across their laps and shoulders. Using booster seats, such as the Evenflo Right Fit, properly positions adult seat belts safely around children's smaller bodies, while also offering them better visibility and comfort. In fact, in eight states, booster seats are mandatory until age 8.

- **Beat Backseat Boredom—**"Are we there yet?" To avoid the dreaded question, turn your car into a magically fun ride. Pack new and exciting books, tapes, stickers, crayons and small soft toys. For



Keeping children safe and entertained is an important part of family road trips.

added fun, wrap each of the surprises to give to children during different legs of the trip. These fun surprises may turn whining and tears into smiles and cheers in no time. For more boredom busters and ideas to liven up the highways, visit www.parentlink.com.

- **Travel with Ease—**If you are traveling with an infant, travel systems are a dream come true. These systems, such as Evenflo's Featherlight Plus Travel System, provide an infant car seat that can be smoothly removed from the car and snapped easily into a stroller. No more waking up the baby to transport him from car seat to stroller. The little one probably won't even notice he's moving.

To learn more about safe baby products or travel ideas, visit the Web sites at www.evenflo.com or www.parentlink.com.