



Car Seat Safety Tips

- Always wear your seatbelt and make sure that every occupant is properly restrained for every ride.
- Always use the vehicle owner's manual to identify where airbags are located, and read the instructions about transporting children. This will help you determine the best place for your car seat.
- Read the owner's manual for your child safety seat. The seat must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Infants should ride in rear-facing child safety seats as long as possible according to manufacturer's instructions; a minimum of 12 months old and 20 pounds. Never place an infant in a rear-facing car seat in the front of an air bag. Rear facing: Harness shoulder straps should come out of the slots at or below the child's shoulders.
- Children that weigh between 20 and a minimum of 40 pounds should be correctly secured in a forward facing child safety seat. Forward facing: Harness shoulder straps should come out of the slots at or above the child's shoulders.
- Always use the safety seat tether for optimal protection.
- Children should be correctly secured in a belt-positioning booster seat or other appropriate child restraint until the adult lap and shoulder safety belts fit correctly, approximately 4'9" and 80-100 pounds. The shoulder belt should be located in the center of the shoulder. The lap belt should be kept down on the hips and touching the thighs.
- The back seat is much safer than the front. Correctly buckle up children under 13 years of age in the back seat.
- Return the product registration card provided for all new child safety seats to the manufacturer to ensure that you will be notified of any recalls. Check www.recalls.gov to inquire about any recalls or safety notices on child safety seats.
- Avoid purchasing safety seats from yard sales, flea markets and second hand stores or when there is no known history of the seat.

Sources: American Academy of Pediatrics, National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, and the National Safe Kids Campaign, Safe Ride News