

Basic Car Seat Safety

Don't put your child at risk—buckle up the right way on every ride!



All children must use a car seat, booster seat or seat belt. Use this flyer to help you remember:

- My child always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- Everyone in my car buckles up on every ride using the right car seat, booster seat or seat belt for each person's age and size.
- My child's car seat has all of its parts, labels and instructions and has never been in a crash.
- I follow the instructions for my car and my car seat so that my child is buckled in right.
- I never leave my child alone in a car.
- If I have any car seat questions, I know I can contact Safe Kids Worldwide.

For more information, contact
Safe Kids USA
202-662-0600
www.safekids.org

Safe Kids USA
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004

Proud Program Sponsors



Infants use rear-facing car seats

If my child is under age 1 AND weighs less than 20 pounds:

- She always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- She always rides in a car seat made for infants her size and age.
- She sits facing the back of the car in her car seat.
- The straps are snug on her, and I can't pinch the buckled strap.
- Her car seat is buckled tightly in the car and doesn't move more than one inch when I pull it.



Toddlers use forward-facing car seats

If my child is over age 1 AND weighs 20 to 40 pounds:

- He always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- He always rides in a car seat made for kids his size and age.
- The straps are snug on him, and I can't pinch the buckled strap.
- His car seat is buckled tightly in the car and doesn't move more than one inch when I pull it.



Young kids use booster seats

If my child is under 4 feet, 9 inches tall AND weighs more than 40 pounds:

- She always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- She always rides in a booster seat using a seat belt with lap and shoulder straps.
- The lap belt sits low on her hips, not her stomach.
- The shoulder belt is on her shoulder — not on her neck, under her arm or behind her back.
- The seat belt is snug, flat and comfortable on her.



Older kids use seat belts

If my child is over 4 feet, 9 inches tall and weighs more than 80 pounds:

- She always rides in a back seat and never in front of an air bag.
- She always uses a seat belt with lap and shoulder straps.
- The lap belt sits low on her hips, not her stomach.
- The shoulder belt is on her shoulder — not on her neck, under her arm or behind her back.
- Her back is firmly against the seat back, her knees bend at the front edge of the seat, and she can sit this way for the whole ride.
- The seat belt is snug, flat and comfortable on her. If the seat belt does not fit right, she must use a booster seat.

