

Child Safety Seats and Seat Belts

Facts About Safety Seats



- ◆ Motor vehicle crashes are the greatest danger to your child's life and health. Crushing forces to your child's brain or body in a crash or sudden stop, even at low speeds, can cause injuries or death.

- ◆ When used correctly, child safety seats can reduce fatal injuries in cars by 71% for infants and 54% for children ages 1 to 4.
- ◆ More than 95% of child safety seats are **NOT** used correctly.
- ◆ **It is the law** that children must ride in the **back** seat of a vehicle and in a correctly used safety seat or booster seat until they are at least **6 years old or weigh at least 60 pounds**.



Safety Seat Guide



- ★ Infants must ride in a rear-facing (facing toward the back of the car) safety seats until they are at least **1 year AND weigh 20 pounds**.

- ★ Kids over age 1 and between 20-40 pounds can use forward-facing safety seats.
- ★ Children up to age 6 and 40-60 pounds **must** ride in booster seats. To stay safe, kids **should** keep using a booster seat until they are 80 pounds and 4'9" tall.



- ★ Children who are over 4 feet 9 inches **and** at least 80 pounds can fit in lap/shoulder belts. The lap belt **must** fit low and flat on the hips, with the shoulder belt over the shoulder rather than on the face or neck.

Safety Seat/Seat Belt Tips

- ★ **NEVER** put a safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag. The air bag that saves your life could kill your child!
- ★ Remember, not all seats fit all cars. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for installation.
- ★ The safest place to put your child is in the **back** seat of your car. **All children** age 12 and under should **ALWAYS** ride in the back seat and with a correctly used car seat, booster seat or seatbelt.
- ★ If you do not have shoulder belts in the back seat of your car, install them. Serious injuries can occur if using only lap belts.



- ★ Set a good example— make sure you and other adults buckle up, too. Do not go until everyone in the car is buckled in!
- ★ To make sure your child's safety seat is appropriate and correctly installed, have it checked.
- ★ Call your local Safe Kids Coalition or Police Department to find out about car seat inspection stations in your area or log onto:



www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cps/cpsfitting/