



Child-Safety Car Seat

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

Four out of five child-safety car seats are used incorrectly. Here's how to make sure your kids are fully protected and that you are buckling them up correctly.

1. Infants should ride in rear-facing seats as long as possible, at least until they are 12 months old and weigh at least 20 pounds.
 - ♡ Never put a rear-facing seat in a front seat that is equipped with a passenger air bag.
 - ♡ Keep harness straps snug. Fasten the harness clip at armpit level.
 - ♡ Recline the seat so the child's head can rest flat against the shell.
 - ♡ Make sure the handle is in the right position.
 - ♡ Route the harness straps in the harness slots that are at or slightly below shoulder level.
2. For kids over 1 year old and who weigh between 20 and 40 pounds, it's time for a front-facing child-safety seat.
 - ♡ Fasten the harness clip at armpit level.
 - ♡ Route the harness straps in the harness slots at or slightly above shoulder level.
 - ♡ Keep harness traps snug and flat.
 - ♡ Keep the seat upright.

www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx



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3. Kids over 40 pounds can use booster seats.

- ♡ These seats position the installed lap belt over the child's hips and upper thighs, and the shoulder belt across the chest and shoulder.
- ♡ These seats require both lap and shoulder belts to be effective.
- ♡ If your car has a back seat that is lower than the child's ears, you need to get a high-back-style booster seat to protect the child's neck.

4. By around age 8, kids can move to regular lap and shoulder belts.

- ♡ They must be tall enough to sit back against the seat with their knees bent over the edge.
- ♡ Never let the child sit with the shoulder belt under their arms or behind their back.

5. The back seat is usually the safest place for a child to ride.

6. Most child-safety seats manufactured after September 1999 come with a tether strap, which must in turn be attached to a tether anchor. See your car owner's manual and contact the company that made your car for more information.

7. Be sure to send in your child-safety-seat registration, so that you can be notified if the seat is recalled. Visit www.nhtsa.gov or call 888-DASH-2-DOT.

8. Replace any seat that has been involved in a crash.

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