



for your family

Partners for Child Passenger Safety

Tips to Keep Your Child Safer While Driving

USE THE CORRECT CAR SEAT FOR YOUR CHILD'S AGE AND SIZE:



Convertible seat installed with LATCH

- Keep your baby in a rear-facing seat until she is at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.
- Use a forward-facing seat with a harness after your child has outgrown her rear-facing seat. She should stay in this seat until she weighs approximately 40 pounds or her ears reach the top of the seat.
- Use a booster seat when she has outgrown the forward-facing seat. Be sure to check the height and weight limits for the seat you own. Your child needs to use a booster seat from about 4 to 8 years old or until she reaches about 4 feet, 9 inches.
- Keep her in a booster seat until the adult lap-and-shoulder belt fits properly. The shoulder belt should lie across the chest between the neck and arm and the lap belt must be across the upper thighs, not the soft stomach.
- An adult lap-and-shoulder belt can be used when your child is tall enough (usually about 4 feet, 9 inches) to sit against the back of the car's seat with her legs bent at the knees and feet hanging down.

BUYING A FAMILY CAR? HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- What type of and how many seat belts and car seats will you need?
- Will your car seats fit in the vehicle? Not all seats fit in all cars. Try them out before buying.
- Compact pickup trucks and sports cars are not safe family cars.
- Does the vehicle have safety features such as shoulder belts in the center rear seat, adjustable shoulder belts in the rear side seats and LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children)?



Rear seating for 11-year-old

CHOOSE A SAFE LOCATION IN YOUR VEHICLE

- Never put an infant in a rear-facing seat in front of an active air bag.
- Plan ahead. Always be sure that there is a seat belt for every child who rides in your car.
- If a child must ride in the front seat, move the vehicle seat as far back as it can go, away from the air bag. Be sure that the child riding in the front is in the correct restraint for her age and size.
- The safest place for all children 12 and younger is the back seat.



High-back booster

SEAT BELTS AND TETHER STRAPS ARE IMPORTANT

- Some rear center seats in cars have only a lap belt. You can use a lap belt alone to install a child safety seat, but never use it for a booster. Correct use of a booster seat requires a lap-and-shoulder seat belt.
- If your vehicle has LATCH, you can use it to install a car seat. LATCH attachment points are usually in rear side seats. Check your vehicle owner's manual for more information.
- Always attach the top tether strap when your child is riding in a forward-facing car seat.

www.chop.edu/carseat

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