



Road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. When installed and used correctly, car seats and safety belts can prevent injuries and save lives. Young children restrained in car seats have a 71 percent lower risk of fatal injury than those who are unrestrained.

Rear-Facing Car Seats

Children should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat.

1. Put harnesses through the slots so they are even with or below the child's shoulders.
2. Use the vehicle's seat belt or LATCH system to install the car seat into the back seat of your vehicle.
3. Your car seat should not move more than one inch side to side or front to back at the belt path.
4. Make sure the car seat is reclined to the recommended angle.
5. Tighten the harness enough that the webbing cannot be pinched between your fingers at the shoulder.
6. Adjust the chest clip to armpit level.

Forward-Facing Car Seats

Children should use a forward-facing car seat with a harness up to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat.

1. Put harnesses through the slots so they are even with or above the child's shoulders.
2. Use the seat belt or LATCH system to install the car seat into the back seat of your vehicle.
3. Use a top tether if your vehicle and car seat are both so equipped.
4. Your car seat should not move more than one inch side to side or front to back at the belt path.
5. Tighten the harness enough that the webbing cannot be pinched between your fingers at the shoulder.
6. Adjust the chest clip to armpit level.

Take the next step to a booster seat when you answer "yes" to any of these questions:

- Is your child over age 4 **AND** weighs over 40 pounds?
- Are your child's shoulders above the car seat's top harness slots?



Booster Seats

Children should use a booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches, which can be between the ages of 8 and 12 years.

1. Set the booster on your vehicle seat.
2. Have your child buckle up using the lap and shoulder seat belt.
3. Use a booster with a back if your vehicle does not have a headrest or high enough seat back.

Safety Belts

Children 13 and younger should sit in the back seat for the best protection.

1. Children should not put the shoulder belt under their arm or behind their back.
2. Tell every driver that transports your child that seat belt use is a must.

Important Reminders

1. Always read and follow manufacturer's instructions.
2. Be sure to send in your car seat registration card so you can be notified of potential recalls.
3. Destroy your car seat after it is expired or in a crash.
4. Find a car seat technician if you are unsure about your car seat.