

More Resources

LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children)

Almost all cars and car seats made since September 2002 must have LATCH. LATCH locks a car seat into the vehicle without using the safety belts. Older cars and car seats may not have LATCH. Read your owner's manual and car seat instructions to see if you can use LATCH. Both LATCH and safety belts provide the same protection. Use one or other, not both.

Never Leave Your Child Alone

A child in a parked vehicle can die of heatstroke in just a few minutes, even if the weather is mild. Kids can also release brakes, start cars and face other dangers. Never leave your child alone in a car, even for a few minutes, and keep the doors and trunk locked at all times so children can't play inside. If you see a child unattended in a vehicle, call 911.

Trunk Entrapment

Newer cars have "glow in the dark" handles inside the trunks. Pulling the handle allows a trapped person to open the trunk. Children should know how to find and use the handle. Also, teach your children never to use the trunk of a car as a hiding place or play area.

Spot the Tot

Before you open the car door, take 30 seconds to look carefully for small children who may be under or behind your vehicle. Also, teach your children to play away from all vehicles, even parked ones.

Spotters' Club

Children ages 4 to 8 ride on booster seats and have a clear view of people outside the car. Teach your child to "Spot the Tot" while walking to the car and to look for kids and parents who are buckled up, wearing bike helmets and using crosswalks. Visit www.usa.safekids.org to order a Spotters' Club kit.

Safe Kids Worldwide
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004
www.usa.safekids.org
202-662-0600

Safe Kids Buckle Up
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Child Passenger Safety

Kids can live with it!



Child Passenger Safety Rules

- Every person on every ride must use a car seat, booster seat or safety belt that's right for his or her weight and height.
- All children under age 13 ride in a back seat.
- Know where the airbags are in your vehicles. They can be in the front seat, on the roofline or in a back seat. Some airbags can be turned off.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions for car seats, booster seats and vehicle safety at all times.
- Do not allow your child to ride in vehicles where drivers or passengers do not use safety restraints.
- Don't share safety belts. Use one safety belt for each person in the car.
- Weigh and measure children often to be sure they are using the right safety device.
- Install car seats using a locked vehicle safety belt or LATCH system. Read labels and instructions to know how to do this.
- Never use car seats purchased from yard sales, secondhand stores or flea markets.
- Never let children ride on laps or in cargo areas or pickup truck beds.

Safe Kids coalitions will help you know when to move children from one car seat to the next.



Four Big Steps

STEP 1 Infants – Use a rear-facing car seat to at least age 1 and 20 lbs.

Use your rear-facing car seat longer if the seat has higher weight and height limits. Take the next step to a forward-facing car seat when your child is at least one year old and you answer “yes” to either question:

- Does your child exceed the car seat’s rear-facing height and weight limits?
- Is your child’s head within one inch of the car seat top?



Rear-facing Convertible

STEP 2 Toddlers – Use a forward-facing car seat (convertible or combo seat) until the harness no longer fits

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



Forward-facing Seat

- Does your child exceed the car seat’s height and weight limits?
- Are your child’s shoulders above the car seat’s top harness slots?
- Are the tops of your child’s ears above the car seat?

STEP 3 Boosters – Use a booster seat with the vehicle lap and shoulder safety belts until your child passes the **Safety Belt Fit Test**



Boosters: high-back and backless

Take the next step to the safety belt when you answer “yes” to these questions:

- Does your child exceed the booster seat’s height and weight limits?
 - Does your child pass the **Safety Belt Fit Test** in all vehicles used:
1. Have your child sit all the way back on the vehicle seat. Do his or her knees bend at the front edge of the seat? If they bend naturally, go to #2. If they don’t, return to the booster seat.
 2. Buckle the lap and shoulder belt. Be sure the lap belt rests on the upper legs or hips. If it does, go to #3. If it rests on the stomach, return to the booster seat.
 3. Be sure the shoulder belt rests on the shoulder or collarbone. If it does, go to #4. If it’s on the face or neck, return to the booster seat. Never put the shoulder belt under the child’s arm or behind the child’s back.

4. Check whether your child maintains the correct seating position for as long as you are in the car. If your child slouches or shifts positions so the safety belt touches the face, neck or stomach, return your child to the booster seat.

STEP 4 Safety Belts



Safety Belt

Once your child passes the **Safety Belt Fit Test**, require him or her to use safety belts in a back seat in every vehicle on every ride, whether or not you are there. A lap and shoulder belt provides the best protection to your child and helps him or her to maintain the correct seating position.

Safe Kids Buckle Up, a program operated in partnership with Chevrolet and General Motors for 10 years, provides free inspections of car seats, shows you how to install and adjust car seats properly and evaluates older kids for safety belt fit at:

- Car seat checkup events, often held in partnership with Chevrolet or other General Motors dealerships
- Child Safety Seat Inspection Stations, in permanent locations throughout the country
- Community events, some served by our Mobile Car Seat Check Up Vans

Visit www.usa.safekids.org to find your local Safe Kids coalition and make