

Right Seat ♦ Right Time ♦ Right Use

Unrestrained children are 3 times more likely to be injured in a crash.

Follow these 4 Steps
to Keep Kids Safe
in the Car



1. Keep Children Rear-Facing as Long as Possible:

- ♦ Use rear-facing car seats in the back seat up to age 2 or longer, until reaching the maximum rear-facing weight or height limit (even age 2 or 3).
- ♦ Use a car seat with higher weight and height limits if your child outgrows their car seat before age 2 to keep your child rear-facing longer.
- ♦ Leg crowding is expected and does not cause harm as long as the child is within weight and height limits for the car seat.



2. Keep Children in Car Seats with Harnesses as Long as Possible:

- ♦ Use a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether in the back seat when the upper rear-facing height or weight limit is reached.
- ♦ Use the car seat with a harness as long as possible up to the upper weight or height limit for the harness.



3. Keep Children in Booster Seats until the Seat Belt Fits:

- ♦ Use booster seats in the back seat until the seat belt fits.
- ♦ Use a seat belt when:
 1. The child can sit all the way back in the vehicle seat with knees bent at the edge of the seat.
 2. The shoulder belt crosses the center of the chest and rests on the shoulder (not the neck).
 3. The lap belt fits low and snug on the hips / upper thighs (not the stomach).



4. Keep Children Belted in the Back Seat until Age 13:

- ♦ Use a correctly fitted lap and shoulder belt in the back seat for older children when they outgrow the booster seat, which may not happen until close to 12 years old.
- ♦ The back seat is safest for all children.