

Basic Car Seat Safety

Making Sure to Buckle Up - The Right Way - Every Time

DID YOU KNOW?

Car seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by **71%** for infants and by **54%** for toddlers 1 to 4 years old in passenger cars.



325

Children under the age of 5 were saved by car seats in one year!

Find the Right Car Seat for Every Child

Information needed to select the right car seat or booster seat.



AGE



WEIGHT



HEIGHT



DEVELOPMENTAL LEVEL



[Car Seat Finder Guide](#)

Use the Car Seat Correctly Every Time

Most parents and caregivers believe they know how to correctly install their car seats. A study found about half (**48%**) have installed their child's car seat incorrectly.



SELECTION



DIRECTION



LOCATION



ADJUSTMENT



INSTALLATION



[Car Seat Installation Tips](#)

Attend a Car Seat Check to Get Your Questions Answered



Follow us for more tips!
Pennsylvania Traffic Injury Prevention Project



Traffic Injury Prevention Project
Pennsylvania

1-800 CAR BELT

www.pakidstravelsafe.org



[PA Car Seat Fitting Station Near You](#)

Children Younger than 2 years: REAR-FACING Car Seats

- ✓ Always choose a car seat made for the child's age and size.
 - Read the car seat labels for the weight and height ranges.
 - **Secure children rear-facing as long as possible.**
- ✓ Install the car seat facing the rear of the vehicle.
- ✓ Choose a back seat.
 - Never secure the car seat in the front seat with an active front seat air bag.

- ✓ Adjust the harness to fit the child.
 - Harness straps are:
 - **At or below** the child's shoulder and snug.
 - Extra webbing cannot be pinched at the shoulder.
 - Chest clip placed at armpit level.
- ✓ Secure the car seat tightly.
 - Moves no more than one-inch when pulled where the seat belt goes through the car seat.
- ✓ Never leave a child alone in the car.



Children Ages 2 and Older: FORWARD-FACING Car Seats

Child is over age 2 AND has outgrown the weight or height limits of the rear-facing car seat.

- ✓ Always choose a car seat made for the child's age and size.
 - Read the labels for the car seat weight and height ranges.
 - **Secure children forward-facing until the child outgrows the harness.**
- ✓ Install the car seat facing the front of the vehicle.
- ✓ Choose a back seat.
 - Recommended to not to secure the car seat in the front seat with an active front seat air bag.

- ✓ Adjust the harness to fit the child.
 - Harness straps are:
 - **At or above** the child's shoulder and snug.
 - Extra webbing cannot be pinched at the shoulder.
 - Chest clip placed at armpit level.
- ✓ Secure the car seat tightly.
 - Moves no more than one-inch when pulled where the seat belt goes through the car seat.
- ✓ Attach and secure the tether to limit forward movement in the event of a crash.
- ✓ Never leave a child alone in the car.



Children Ages 4 and Older: BOOSTER SEATS with Lap and Shoulder Seat Belt

Child is over age 4 AND has outgrown the weight or height limits of the forward-facing car seat.

- ✓ Always choose a booster seat made for the child's age and size.
 - Read the labels for the booster seat weight and height ranges.
 - **Secure children in a booster seat until the seat belt fits correctly.**
- ✓ Always use a lap and shoulder belt with a booster seat.
- ✓ Recommend child is secured in a back seat.

- ✓ Adjust the booster seat / vehicle head restraint height behind the child's head.
- ✓ Seat belt routed over the child through the seat belt guides.
 - The lap belt lays flat across the hips.
 - The shoulder belt lays flat across the center of the shoulder.
- ✓ Never leave a child alone in the car.



Children Ages 8 and Older: LAP AND SHOULDER SEAT BELT

Child is over age 8 AND has outgrown the weight or height limits of the booster seat.

- ✓ Child can sit with their:
 - Back against the vehicle seat without slouching.
 - Knees bent over the front edge of the vehicle seat.
 - Feet flat on the floor.
- ✓ **Secure children in a lap and shoulder belt, when available.**
- ✓ Recommend a back seat for children up until 13 years of age.

- ✓ Adjust the vehicle head restraint height behind the child's head.
- ✓ The vehicle lap and shoulder seat belt fits correctly when:
 - The lap belt lays flat across the hips.
 - The shoulder belt lays flat across the center of the shoulder.
- ✓ Never leave a child alone in the car.

