

# Child Passenger Safety Week

## 2021 Planner

Dear Safety Advocate:

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children 12 years of age and younger. On average, three children under the age of 14 were killed and an estimated 502 were injured every day in traffic crashes in 2019. Initiatives to encourage families to assess whether their child is in the appropriate car seat and that it is used correctly are needed to eliminate preventable car crash tragedies.

**Child Passenger Safety Week, September 19-25, 2021**, raises awareness for the need to secure children safely, every trip, every time. The car seat check events scheduled throughout the week provide hands-on guidance on the correct selection, installation, and use of the appropriate car seat, booster seat, or seat belt based on the child's age, weight, height, and developmental needs.

### Child Safety Seat Key Statistics

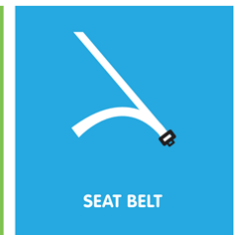
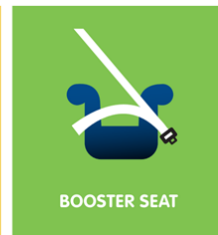
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- ◆ In passenger cars, car seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions were 58% and 59%, respectively.
- ◆ Most parents are confident that they have correctly installed their child's car seat, but in many cases (46%), the seat has not been installed correctly.
- ◆ In 2017 (latest data available), among children under 5, car seats saved an estimated 312 lives. A total of 371 children could have survived if they had been buckled up 100% of the time.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported the following percentage of child fatalities who were unrestrained in crashes in passenger vehicles:

- ◆ 25% of children less than 1 year of age;
  - ◆ 28% of children who were 1 to 3 years of age;
  - ◆ 41% of children who were 4 to 7 years of age;
  - ◆ 43% of children who were 8 to 12 years of age; and
  - ◆ 55% of children who were 13 to 14 years of age.
- (NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts Children 2019 Data, May 2021)

The Pennsylvania Traffic Injury Prevention Project (PA TIPP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) are providing this planner to assist you in coordinating community safety events throughout the state. Every parent wants to protect their children and keep them safe. The 2021 Child Passenger Safety Week theme, "**Love Me, Buckle Me, in the Right Seat at the Right Time**," highlights the importance of selecting a size-appropriate car seat for every child and using it correctly every time.



### Steps for Correct Car Seat Use

<b>Selection</b>	Select the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt based on the child's age, weight, height, and developmental level. The car seat or booster seat must fit in the car, and be used correctly every time.
<b>Direction</b>	Position the child rear-facing to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Pennsylvania law requires children to remain rear-facing until two years of age.
<b>Location</b>	Place the child in a vehicle back seat position that allows for correct use following the car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.
<b>Harness Adjustment and Fit</b>	Secure the child with a snug harness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Rear-facing: At or Below the child's shoulders</li> <li>◆ Forward-Facing: At or Above the child's shoulders</li> </ul>
<b>Installation</b>	Install the car seat / booster seat correctly using the vehicle seat belt or Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH).

Child Passenger Safety Week provides the opportunity to teach parents to make the correct choices to keep the entire family safe, because the consequences of a misused car seat can be devastating. Please contact us if we can support your efforts during Child Passenger Safety Week. PA TIPP compiles a list of events and activities for PennDOT and NHTSA. Send us your event information for the statewide list by completing the registration form provided on the back page or use the link provided to register your event online. PA TIPP will post events on the PA TIPP website and make the list available upon request.

Thank you for your dedication to protect children in your community. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

#### PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project Staff

Angela Osterhuber, Project Director  
Teresa Rychlak, Assistant Project Director  
Southeast Regional Coordinator  
Nicole McCalla, Project Assistant

Cathy Connors, Northeast Regional Coordinator  
Kelly Whitaker, Central Regional Coordinator  
Kristen Urso, Southwest Regional Coordinator  
Mary Lakari, Northwest Regional Coordinator



# Sample Press Release

Sponsoring Organization Logo—PennDOT releases must follow department template

## News for Immediate Release

Media Contact: [Name, Agency, Phone number, Email]

September 19, 2021

### (Sponsoring Organization) to Participate in National Child Passenger Safety Week

**Town, City, Borough** - Motor vehicle crashes remain a leading killer of children. Parents and caregivers want to protect their children and keep them safe, but data shows that nearly half (46%) of car seats are misused. Children who are correctly buckled in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt benefit from the single most effective way to protect passengers in a motor vehicle and reduce fatalities in a crash. A correctly selected and installed car seat or booster seat is essential in keeping children safe in the vehicle. Whenever possible, all children younger than 13 years of age should ride buckled in the back seat.

[List of participating organizations] is/are participating in Child Passenger Safety Week, from September 19-25, 2021, a campaign dedicated to helping parents and caregivers make sure their children ride in the car as safely as possible. **"Love Me, Buckle Me, in the Right Seat at the Right Time"** is this year's theme and urges parents and caregivers to protect their child's future at every stage of life, by making sure they secure them in the correct car seat.

Parents and caregivers need to make certain they and their children are properly buckled on every trip – including short trips close to home. Most parents are confident that they have correctly selected and installed their child's car seat. Sadly, three children younger than 14 years of age were killed every day in 2019 while riding in motor vehicles. No parent ever wants to get it wrong when it comes to a child's safety. Many children travel in a car seat that is appropriate for their age and size, but some children are either not correctly secured or completely unsecured in the back of a vehicle. Child Passenger Safety Week is dedicated to educating parents and caregivers about the importance of correctly selecting, installing, and using car seats, booster seats, and seat belts. We encourage you to take an hour or so during this week to double and triple check your child's car seat or booster seat, and ensure that it is the correct car seat for your child's age and size, and that it is installed correctly.

*According to PennDOT data, in 2020, on average, there were 286 reportable crashes every day. According to national data, using the correct car seat reduces the chance of fatal injury for infants by 71 percent and toddlers by 54 percent.* Make certain that everyone in the car is protected, that every child is in the right car seat that is installed and used correctly based on age, weight and height.

In Pennsylvania, the driver is responsible for securing children in the appropriate child restraint system. Children from birth up to age 4 must be secured in an approved child safety seat anywhere in the vehicle. A child younger than two years of age shall be secured in a rear-facing car seat, to be used until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer. Children age 4 up to age 8 must be in a booster seat and secured with a lap and shoulder belt anywhere in the vehicle.

Children age 8 up to age 18 must be secured in a seat belt system anywhere in the vehicle. Under Pennsylvania's seat belt law, all drivers are responsible for the front seat passengers to wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. All drivers under 18 years of age may not operate a motor vehicle in which the number of passengers exceeds the number of available seat belts in the vehicle.

For more information on how to keep passengers safe, visit [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) or call 1-800-CAR-BELT.

###

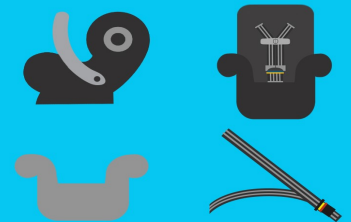
If you are unable to afford a car seat, call 1-800-CAR-BELT or visit [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) to find the nearest car seat loan program. Child Safety Seat Inspection Stations and Community Car Seat Checkup Events are provided on the website.

## Car Seats, Booster Seats, & Seat Belts Save Lives

- ◆ According to NHTSA:
  - ◆ When the driver is buckled, children are restrained 92% of the time.
  - ◆ When the driver is unbuckled, children are restrained about 68% of the time.
- ◆ In 2019, of the 731 child vehicle occupants killed, restraint use was known for 658. Forty percent of the 658 fatalities (266) were unrestrained.
- ◆ Remember to read and follow the installation instructions included with a car seat or booster seat and the guidance provided in the vehicle owner's manual. An incorrect installation can expose a child passenger to the risk of injury or death in a crash.
- ◆ In Pennsylvania from 2016—2020, 83% of the children under age 4, who were involved in crashes and restrained in a car seat, sustained no injury.
- ◆ Pennsylvania seat belt use rate was 88.9% in 2020.  
(2020 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics)
  - ◆ NHTSA estimated that using the lap and shoulder seat belt reduces the risk of fatal injury by 45% for front seat passengers in vehicles.

## TAKE IT SLOW

MANY KIDS MOVE TO THE NEXT CAR SEAT OR BOOSTER SEAT TOO SOON



[NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](http://NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat)

NHTSA ad

## UNDER 13 YEARS OLD?

ALWAYS SIT IN BACK SEAT.



[NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](http://NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat)

NHTSA ad

# Car Seat Safety—One Step at a Time

Car seats, belt-positioning booster seats and seat belts provide protection for infants and children. As children grow, choose the age-and-size appropriate car seat and use it correctly every time the child is traveling in a vehicle. Children should remain in their current car seat or belt-positioning booster seat until the maximum weight or height listed by the car seat manufacturer on a label or in the instructions. Follow best practice guidelines for selecting and using the correct car seat, belt-positioning booster seat, or seat belt for your child.

## Rear-Facing



Secure children in a rear-facing car seat until the maximum weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

Pennsylvania law requires children younger than 2 years of age to always ride in a rear-facing car seat.

Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side front air bag.

All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.



### Here's What to Do:

- ◆ Use a rear-facing car seat:
  - ◆ Up to the rear-facing weight or height limit, even if the child is beyond the age of 2.
  - ◆ Secured in the back seat for as long as possible.
- ◆ If your child outgrows their rear-facing car seat before age 2, use a car seat with a higher weight and/or height limit to keep the child rear-facing longer.
- ◆ Leg crowding is expected and does not cause harm as long as the child is within the weight and height limits for the car seat.

**Traveling rear-facing is safer than forward-facing.**

## Forward-Facing



When children outgrow the rear-facing car seat, secure them in a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.



### Here's What to Do:

- ◆ Use a forward-facing car seat with a harness up to the maximum weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- ◆ Secure the car seat with the seat belt or LATCH system in the back seat.
  - ◆ Check the car seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions to determine the maximum weight limit permitted for lower anchor installation.
- ◆ Use the tether, whenever possible, when securing a forward-facing car seat with the seat belt or lower anchors.



## Belt-Positioning Booster Seat



Once children outgrow their forward-facing car seat, secure them in a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt until the seat belt fits correctly, typically when a child is approximately 4 feet 9 inches and between 8 and 12 years of age. All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.

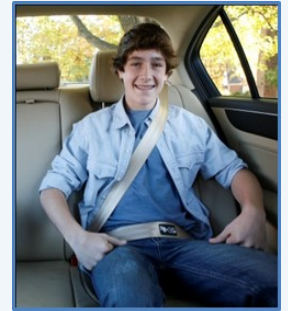


### Here's What to Do:

- ◆ Use a belt-positioning booster seat in the back seat until the seat belt fits.
- ◆ Belt-positioning booster seats raise and position a child so the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fits correctly over the strong parts of a child's body.
- ◆ The lap belt must be snug across the hips, touching the upper thighs - not over the abdomen.
- ◆ The shoulder belt must be snug across the chest, making contact with the child's shoulder.



## Seat Belt



When children outgrow their belt-positioning booster seat, secure them in a properly fitted lap and shoulder seat belt.

A lap and shoulder belt fits properly when the lap belt lays low and snug across the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest and shoulder.

All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.



### Here's What to do:

- ◆ Use a correctly fitted lap and shoulder seat belt in the back seat for children when they outgrow the booster seat.
- ◆ Use the seat belt when the child is:
  - ◆ Tall enough to sit with their back against the vehicle seat back without slouching.
  - ◆ Able to keep their knees naturally bent over the front edge of the vehicle seat.
  - ◆ Able to keep their feet flat on the floor.
- ◆ The lap belt must be snug over the hips/upper thighs, not the stomach.
- ◆ The shoulder belt must be snug across the center of the shoulder and the chest.



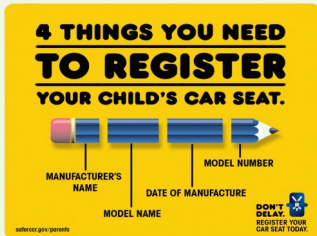
# Car Seat Maintenance & Recall and Safety Notifications

Car seats are designed and tested to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 governs the performance and some design criteria for child restraint systems for children who weigh up to 80 pounds. The standard includes requirements for crashworthiness, labeling and instructions, flammability, and buckle release pressure. Although child restraint systems undergo thorough testing and evaluation, it is possible that a child restraint could be recalled.

## Register All Car Seats to Receive Recall and Safety Notifications

A recall is issued when a car seat manufacturer or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) determines a car seat creates a safety risk or fails to meet minimum safety standards. Decisions to conduct a recall and remedy a safety defect are made voluntarily by car seat manufacturers prior to any involvement by NHTSA.



### Car seats can be registered:

- ◆ Online at the car seat manufacturer's website.
- ◆ Complete the form providing the model number and manufacture date found on the car seat label.
- ◆ By Mail with the registration card that came with the car seat.
- ◆ The car seat model number and manufacture date is on the registration card.
- ◆ No postage is required to mail the card.
- ◆ Online at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats>.
- ◆ Go to Registration and select the manufacturer of the car seat.
- ◆ Complete the form and submit.

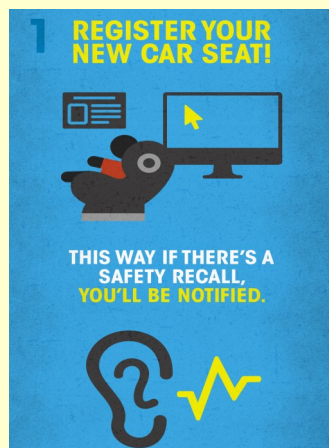
By registering your car seat, in the event of a recall, the manufacturer can contact you and guide you through the repair process.

## Car Seat Labels and Instruction Manual

Keep a record of the following car seat information.

Manufacturer	
Model Name	
Model #	
Manufacture Date	
Expiration Date	

- ◆ Discontinue using a car seat that has been involved in a crash or reached the expiration date.
- ◆ Keep the car seat instructions with the car seat. Refer to instructions to:
  - ◆ Learn how to use, adjust, and secure the harness and install the car seat in the vehicle.
- ◆ Always read and follow the car seat instructions.
- ◆ Register the car seat to receive recall and safety notifications.
- ◆ Discontinue using the car seat when:
  - ◆ The child has outgrown the car seat by weight or height.
  - ◆ The car seat has been involved in a crash.
  - ◆ The car seat has reached the manufacturer's expiration date.



## Cleaning Car Seats

Read the car seat manufacturer's instructions. Each manufacturer has specific instructions on how to clean their car seat. Follow the cleaning instructions provided by the manufacturer.



**Wash as Directed:** Use mild soap and the water temperature as directed for the car seat pad or parts. Do NOT use bleach or strong cleaners.

- ◆ **Car Seat Harness:** Many harnesses cannot be immersed in water. Manufacturers recommend wiping the harness with mild soap and water and allowing the harness to air dry.
- ◆ **Car Seat Shell:** Clean with mild soap and water and dry with a soft cloth. Take care not to damage the labels.
- ◆ **Never** use an iron or heat on the car seat pads or harnesses. The heat can damage the fibers.

**Evaluate the Buckle:** Check the crotch buckle and clean as needed, following car seat manufacturer's instructions, to ensure proper latching. Make sure the buckle is functioning properly and is free of debris.



## Car Seat Expiration Dates

Car seat expiration dates are determined by the manufacturer and indicate the life span of the car seat.

Manufactured in / Fabriqué en (year-month-day)/année-mois-jour 2020-10-23  
Name / Nom LITEMAX 35 FACTORY SELECT  
Model / Modèle 3051198  
Made in / Fabriqué au China  
Expires on / Expire le 2026-10-23  
Serial Number 3051198BXP001479

**Expiration dates** are a way for car seat manufacturers to provide guidance on the expected "useful" life of their car seat.

- ◆ The expiration date of a car seat is determined by the manufacturer. Check the car seat labels and instructions to determine the car seat expiration date.
- ◆ Discontinue use of the car seat once the expiration date is reached.
- ◆ The date of manufacture can be found on the label that provides the model number. The sticker may be found on the back, side, or bottom of the car seat.
- ◆ The expiration date may be provided as a month and year or in number of years from the date of manufacture.

**Replacement Parts:** An inventory of replacement parts may not be available for car seats beyond the expiration date.

### Car Seat Involved in a Crash:

Always follow the car seat manufacturer's guidance about replacing a car seat involved in a crash. Some car seat manufacturers:

- Recommend a car seat be replaced after a crash of any severity, even a minor crash.
- Follow the NHTSA recommendations that car seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash.



## Rear-Facing Car Seat Basics

### Selection - Direction Rear Facing until 2!

- ♦ Secure infants and toddlers in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.
- ♦ Pennsylvania law requires children younger than 2 years of age to always ride in a rear-facing car seat.
- ♦ Select a rear-facing car seat that allows the top of the child's head to be at least one-inch (1") below the top of the back of the car seat.
- ♦ Traveling rear-facing is safer than forward-facing.



Always check the car seat manufacturer's instructions and website before using any product that did not come with the car seat. This includes infant head support inserts, harness covers, canopy covers, toys, or vehicle seat protectors.



When selecting a rear-facing car seat:

- ♦ Evaluate the age, weight, height, physical development, and emotional needs of the child.
- ♦ Select the car seat that:
  - ♦ Is safe for the child;
  - ♦ Fits the vehicle;
  - ♦ Can be used correctly every trip, every time.



### Rear-Facing Only Seat

- ♦ Portable and convenient car seats that accommodate small infants.
  - ♦ The weight range is from 3 - 4 pounds and goes up to 30 - 35 pounds.
- ♦ Many can be used with a base that remains in the vehicle or can be used without the base.
  - ♦ Extra bases can be purchased for use in several cars.

### Convertible Car Seat

- ♦ Larger car seat that stays secured in the car and converts from rear-facing to forward-facing.
  - ♦ Rear-facing weight range is from 4 - 5 pounds and up to 40-50 pounds to accommodate rear-facing children longer.
- ♦ Typically used as a transition car seat between the rear-facing only car seat and a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
  - ♦ Recommended for children who are younger than 2 years of age who have outgrown their rear-facing only car seat.





# Rear-Facing Car Seat Basics



## Location

- ◆ All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.
- ◆ Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side front air bag.
- ◆ Select a seating position that allows for the correct use of the car seat.
- ◆ Use of lower anchors or the seat belt may affect the seating position choice.



## Harness Adjustment and Fit

- ◆ Place the child in the car seat so there is no gap between the car seat and the child's back.
- ◆ Thread the harness through the slots located at or below the child's shoulders following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Secure the child with a snug harness.
- ◆ Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.

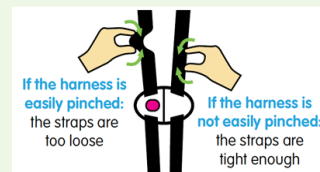


### How Tight Should the Harness Be?

The harness should pass the 'pinch test':

- ◆ Pinch the harness webbing vertically at the shoulder with the thumb and forefinger.
- ◆ Your fingers should slide off easily and you should not be able to pinch any webbing between them.

The harness should lie flat, and fit snugly (not uncomfortably) at the child's shoulders and hips.

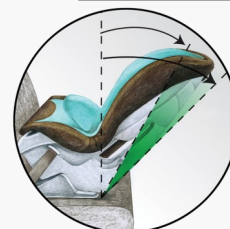


## Installation

- ◆ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for an acceptable rear-facing recline angle.
- ◆ When checking the recline angle, the vehicle must be on level ground.
  - ◆ Use the recline angle adjuster to determine the correct angle.
  - ◆ For car seats that do not have an adjustable base, use a tightly rolled towel or pool noodle placed at the seat base, if needed to correct the angle and permitted by the car seat manufacturer.

### Car Seat Instructions

### Vehicle Owner's Manual



- ◆ Secure the car seat rear-facing with the vehicle seat belt or lower anchor connectors of the LATCH system.
- ◆ Place the car seat on the vehicle seat and route the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.

- ◆ Buckle the seat belt or attach the lower anchor connectors to the designated lower anchors in the vehicle and tighten.
- ◆ Pull at the belt path to be certain there is no more than one-inch of side-to-side or front-to-back movement.
- ◆ Check the installation every time the car seat is used.





## Selection - Direction

### Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics

- ♦ When children outgrow the rear-facing car seat, secure them in a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.
- ♦ Read the car seat instructions and/or label to make sure the car seat is appropriate for the child's age, weight, and height.
- ♦ Be aware of height and weight limits as the child grows.
- ♦ Select a forward-facing car seat where the mid-point of the back of the head or the top of the ears are not above the top of the car seat shell.
- ♦ Forward-facing car seats reduce the risk of injury for children by 71% compared to children using the seat belt only.

### Choose the Right Car Seat

- ♦ Always read the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.
  - ♦ Register the car seat to be notified of recalls.
- ♦ Select a car seat that is correct for the child's weight and height.
  - ♦ Always check the minimum and maximum weight allowed for a car seat.
- ♦ Select a car seat with an adjustable harness height to offer options for children as they grow.
  - ♦ Some car seats have adjustable positions for crotch straps for a better fit as the child grows.
- ♦ Always follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for guidelines on when the car seat must be replaced.



### Convertible / All-in-1 Car Seat

- ♦ Follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions when converting the car seat from rear-facing to forward-facing.
- ♦ Secure forward-facing in the car once the child has outgrown the rear-facing height or weight limit.
  - ♦ Forward-facing weight range is from 20 - 25 pounds and up to 40 - 85 pounds, although most car seats go up to 65 pounds.
- ♦ Car seat instructions may recommend the forward-facing car seat be secured in the upright position.

### Combination Car Seat

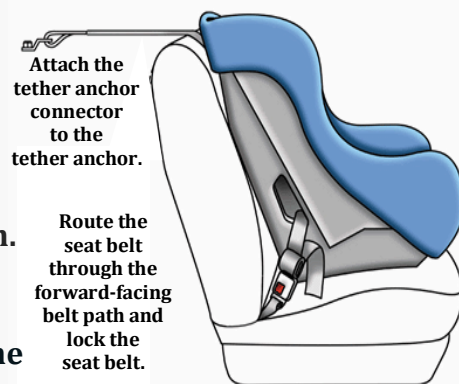
- ♦ Converts from a forward-facing-only car seat with a harness to a belt-positioning booster seat.
  - ♦ Harness weight range is from 20 - 30 pounds up to 40 - 65 pounds.
- ♦ The back of a combination car seat is reinforced. Any harness slot can be used as long as it is at or above the child's shoulders.
- ♦ Once a child reaches the maximum weight or height limit for the harness system, remove the harness and use as a belt-positioning booster seat.





## Location

- ♦ All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.
- ♦ Determine whether the seat belt or lower anchor connectors will be used to secure the car seat.
- ♦ Choose a seating position with a tether anchor.
  - ♦ Use of a tether anchor limits the forward movement in a crash.
  - ♦ Weight limits on lower anchors and tether anchors can affect seating position choice.
- ♦ Select a seating position that allows for the tight installation of the car seat.



## Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics

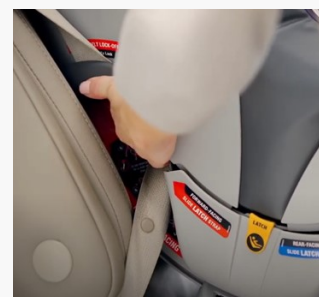
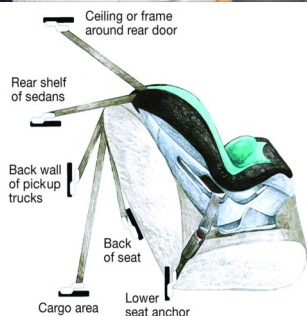
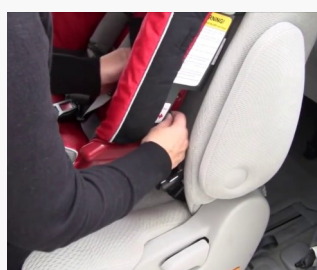


## Harness Adjustment and Fit

- ♦ The child is seated with no gap between their back and the back and bottom of the car seat.
- ♦ Harness adjustment for forward-facing:
  - ♦ Thread harness through the reinforced slots at or above the child's shoulder.
  - ♦ Put the harness over the child's shoulders and buckle.
    - ♦ The harness holds the child back against the car seat in a crash
    - ♦ The crotch strap keeps the child from moving forward.
  - ♦ Tighten the harness straps snugly.
    - ♦ A snug harness does not permit excess webbing to be pinched at the shoulder or hips once the harness is buckled.
- ♦ Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.

## Installation

- ♦ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate upright or semi-upright angle when installing the car seat in the forward-facing position.
- ♦ Thread the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct forward-facing belt path and tighten.
- ♦ Secure the tether when installing the car seat with the seat belt or lower anchors, whenever possible.
- ♦ Confirm the car seat does NOT move side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when tested at the belt path.



## Steps to Obtain a Tight Car Seat Installation

- ♦ Place the car seat on the vehicle seat in the correct direction.
- ♦ Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path.
- ♦ Buckle and lock the seat belt or attach the lower anchor connectors to the lower anchors in the vehicle. Tighten to ensure the car seat does not move more than one-inch when checked at the belt path.
- ♦ Attach and tighten the tether when installing with the seat belt or lower anchor connectors on a forward-facing car seat.





## Belt-Positioning Booster Seat Basics

### Selection

- ◆ When children outgrow the forward-facing car seat, secure them in a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt until the seat belt fits correctly, typically when a child is approximately 4 feet 9 inches tall and between 8 and 12 years of age.
- ◆ Select a booster seat that positions the vehicle's lap belt low and snug across the hips, touching the upper thighs and the shoulder belt crosses the center of the child's chest and shoulder.
- ◆ Booster seats lower the risk of injury for children age 4 to 8 by 45% compared to children using the seat belt alone.

### Direction - Location

- ◆ Place the belt-positioning booster seat forward-facing and flat on a vehicle seating position with a lap and shoulder belt.
- ◆ Confirm the child's ears are not above the back of the vehicle seat or the top of the booster seat's head restraint.
- ◆ Secure children younger than 13 years of age in the back seat of a vehicle for best protection.
  - ◆ If a booster seat is used in the front seat, move the vehicle seat back as far as possible.



### Pennsylvania Law

All drivers transporting children 4 years of age or older but under 8 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in a seat belt system and an appropriately fitting child booster seat. (Primary Law)

### Seat Belt Adjustment and Fit



High-Back  
Belt-Positioning  
Booster Seat



Backless  
Belt-Positioning  
Booster Seat

- ◆ Use a lap and shoulder belt with belt-positioning booster seats.
- ◆ Some high-back booster seats have adjustable seat backs.
- ◆ Adjust the booster seat back or shoulder belt positioner level with or just above the child's shoulders, following the car seat instructions.
  - ◆ Lap belt positioned low, across the child's hips, touching the upper thighs.
  - ◆ Shoulder belt placed across the center of the child's chest and shoulder.
  - ◆ The shoulder belt is in contact with the child's shoulder.
  - ◆ Seat belt is routed correctly through the booster seat belt path.



### Installation

- ◆ Check the car seat instructions for information on securing the booster seat.
- ◆ Most booster seats rest on the vehicle seat and are not locked in place.
- ◆ Some booster seats have lower anchor connectors to position and keep the booster seat in place. Some booster seats may also permit use of a tether.
- ◆ The lower anchor connectors secure the booster seat and the seat belt secures the child.
  - ◆ Lower anchor weight limits do not apply to booster seats.
- ◆ Thread the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts through the correct belt path and buckle.

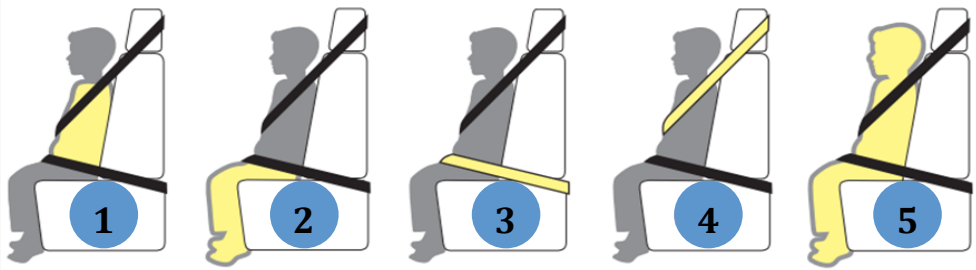


# Seat Belt Safety Basics

## Selection

- ◆ When children outgrow the belt-positioning booster seat, secure them in a properly fitted lap and shoulder belt.
- ◆ A lap and shoulder belt fits correctly when the lap belt lays low and snug across the hips, touching the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest, making contact with the child's shoulder.
- ◆ Secure all children younger than 13 years of age in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.
  - ◆ If a child is secured in the front seat, move the vehicle seat back as far as possible.
- ◆ The lap and shoulder seat belt reduces risk of injury by 45%.

## A child is ready for a seat belt when:



1.	Can the child keep their back against the vehicle seat without slouching?
2.	Can the child keep their knees naturally bent over the edge of the vehicle seat with their feet flat on the floor?
3.	Does the lap belt lie low and snug across the hips, touching the upper thighs, not the stomach?
4.	Does the shoulder belt lie snugly across the center of the chest and shoulder, and not across the neck or face?
5.	Can the child stay comfortably seated with the lap and shoulder belt correctly positioned for the entire trip?



A head restraint that is too low or too far back will not protect your head and neck in a crash.

- ◆ Head restraints should be positioned two inches or less from the rear of the head, and never more than four inches.
- ◆ When adjusting for height, the bulk of the head restraint should be directly behind the head, at ear-level.





# PENNSYLVANIA CAR SEAT LAWS

(Act 53, 1983 / Act 22, 1993 / Act 229, 2002 / Act 81, 2011 / Act 43, 2016)



All children from birth **up to age 4** must be secured in an approved child passenger restraint system anywhere in the vehicle.



Children **younger than age two** must be secured in a rear-facing car seat, until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer.



All children **age 4 up to age 8** must be secured in a seat belt system and appropriate child booster seat anywhere in the vehicle.



All children **age 8 up to age 18** must be secured in a seat belt system anywhere in the vehicle.

**Primary Law:** All drivers transporting children are required to properly restrain children:

- ◆ Birth to age 4 in an approved child passenger restraint system;
- ◆ Age 4 up to age 8 in an appropriate belt-positioning booster seat.

Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance of the Child Passenger Protection Law for children age birth to age 8. Violators will be fined \$75.00, plus Court Costs (adjusted annually); \$45.00 Surcharge; \$10.00 EMS Fund and \$10.00 Administrative Costs.

The fine shall be dismissed if the person prior to or at his hearing displays evidence of acquisition of a child passenger restraint system/booster. Evidence shall include a receipt mailed to the appropriate court officer, which evidences purchase, rental, transferal from another child seat owner (by notarized letter) or bailment from a bona fide child seat loaner program.

**An approved child passenger safety restraint system is labeled indicating that the child restraint conforms to all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.**

**Primary Law:** All drivers transporting children 8 years of age but under 18 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in a properly adjusted seat belt system.

Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance and shall be fined \$10.00, plus \$45.00 Surcharge; \$10.00 EMS Fund and \$10.00 Administrative Costs.



REAR-FACING  
CAR SEAT



FORWARD-FACING  
CAR SEAT



BOOSTER SEAT



SEAT BELT

**KIDS UNDER 13  
SHOULD ALWAYS RIDE  
IN THE BACK SEAT**



## Child Passenger Safety Resources

- ◆ There are approximately 1,625 nationally certified child passenger safety technicians in Pennsylvania who teach parents and caregivers how to properly use their child's car seat.
- ◆ There are 230 car seat fitting stations across the state that provide an opportunity for families to have their car seats evaluated to make sure they accommodate the child's size and fit securely in the vehicle.
- ◆ Visit <https://www.pakidstravelsafe.org/> or call 1-800-CAR-BELT for a listing of child safety seat events and safety information for car seats.
- ◆ Visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/parents-and-caregivers>, NHTSA's parent resource website, for information on making sure you are using the correct seat for your child's age and size.

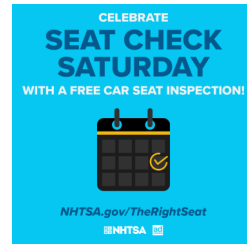


# CPS Week Event Registration

## September 19-25, 2021

Pennsylvania will be joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and other states across the country in celebrating **Child Passenger Safety Week** and **NHTSA's Annual "Seat Check Saturday"** on Saturday, September 25th. The goal of the program is to educate parents on the correct selection and use of their child restraints. Join Pennsylvania in observing Child Passenger Safety Week and help us to get the word out about car seat checks and educational efforts being conducted. **Please provide your event information:**

- ♦ **Online at [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) on the "2021 CPS Week" page, or**
  - ♦ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPSWeek2021EventReg>
- ♦ **By FAX at 484-446-3036, or**
- ♦ **By Email to [aosterhuber@paaap.org](mailto:aosterhuber@paaap.org).**



All registered events will be sent to PennDOT and NHTSA and posted on the PA TIPP website. The events will also be shared, upon request, through local media releases to help advertise them in local communities. The compiled statewide list will be available upon request to community partners and child passenger safety advocates.

**Do not forget to share the success of your event by completing the data collection form provided below. The data collection form can be completed online at [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) on the "2021 CPS Week" page or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPSWeek2021Data>. The data can also be submitted by FAX or email.** Please complete and send the Event Data Collection form by October 4th. The data from each event will be compiled and submitted to PennDOT and NHTSA.

Thank you in advance for your continued efforts to protect the children in your community and cooperation in providing information about your car seat check events held during Child Passenger Safety Week.

### CPS Week & Seat Check Saturday - Car Seat Check Event Registration

DATE of EVENT: \_\_\_\_\_ START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ END TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Appointment Required  
☐ Virtual check by Appointment

☐ Walk-Ins  
☐ Appointment & Walk-Ins

To make an appointment, contact:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### CPS Week Event (s) - Event Data Collection Form:

Date	Check Event Location	Safe Kids Event (Y or N)	Techs Assisting	Seats Checked	Seats Distributed	# of Car Seats Registered on Site

**Data collected will be included in the Pennsylvania report submitted by PennDOT to NHTSA  
FAX to 484-446-3036 or email to [aosterhuber@paaap.org](mailto:aosterhuber@paaap.org)**