

# Child Passenger Safety Week

2022 Planner

Dear Safety Advocate:

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 12 years and younger. On average, three children under the age of 14 were killed, and an estimated 380 were injured every day in 2020. Continued efforts are needed to eliminate preventable car crash tragedies.

**CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK, September 18-24, 2022** raises awareness for the need to secure children as safely as possible—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.

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 2022 Child Passenger Safety Week theme, **"The Road to Safety"**, highlights the importance of selecting a size-appropriate car seat for every child and using it correctly every time.

## The Road to Safety



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported the following percentage of child fatalities, in 2020, who were unrestrained in passenger vehicles:

- ◆ 27% of children less than 1 year of age;
  - ◆ 33% of children who were 1 to 3 years of age;
  - ◆ 43% of children who were 4 to 7 years of age;
  - ◆ 40% of children who were 8 to 12 years of age;
  - ◆ 57% of children who were 13 to 14 years of age.
- (NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts: Children 2020 Data, April 2022)

### 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.
- ◆ Booster seats reduce the risk of nonfatal injuries by 45% among children ages 4 to 8 years old, when compared to a seat belt alone.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Restraint use among young children often depends upon the driver's seat belt use.
  - ◆ When the driver is buckled, children are restrained 92% of the time.
  - ◆ When the driver is not buckled, children are restrained about 68% of the time.

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. Events will be submitted to NHTSA and posted on the NHTSA and PA TIPP websites.

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  
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# Sample Press Release

Sponsoring Organization Logo—PennDOT releases must follow department template

## News for Immediate Release

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

September 18, 2022

### (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 ensure that children are as safe as possible, no matter the situation. Correctly installed car seats and booster seats are a critical component for safety when children are traveling in a vehicle. The latest research from the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) 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 motor vehicle occupants and reduce fatalities in a crash.

[List of participating organizations] is/are participating in Child Passenger Safety Week from September 18-24, 2022. The campaign is dedicated to helping parents and caregivers make sure their children ride as safely as possible. **"The Road to Safety"** is this year's theme and we are urging parents and caregivers to protect their families by examining their car seats and booster seats for correct use.

Parents and caregivers need to make certain they and their children are properly buckled on every trip – including short trips close to home. Sadly, three children under 14 were killed every day in 2020 while riding in vehicles. No parent ever wants to get it wrong when it comes to a child's safety. "When it comes to correctly using a car seat, do not think you know, know for sure that a child is secure in their car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is right for their age and size," said [Spokesperson].

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, and every child is in a correctly used and installed car seat. Always select a car seat based on the child's 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.

## Know the Facts!

In 2020, 604 child passenger vehicle occupants died in traffic crashes.

- ◆ More than a third (38%) of children who died while riding in passenger vehicles were unrestrained.
- ◆ Among children in passenger vehicles in 2020:
  - ◆ The 8 to 12 year old age group had the highest number of fatalities (216), and
  - ◆ The 4 to 7 year old age group had the second highest number of fatalities (207).

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- ◆ In Pennsylvania from 2016—2020, 83% of the children younger than age 4 who were involved in crashes and restrained in a car seat, sustained no injury.
- ◆ 2020 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics
- ◆ Pennsylvania seat belt usage rate was 89.5% in 2021. National statistics show that for every one percent increase in seat belt usage, eight to twelve lives can be saved on the highways.

## Sample Social Media Posts

**Did You Know:** There are many options to get your child's car seat checked by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Visit [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) to search for a car seat check event or to locate a car seat fitting station.

**Did You Know:** Nearly half of all car seats are installed incorrectly. Find a car seat check event to make sure your child is in the right car seat, booster seat, or seat belt for their age and size. Visit [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) to search for a car seat check event or to locate a car seat fitting station.

Car seats are designed to keep children safe, which is why parents need to install and use them correctly, every trip, every time. If you have questions, a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician can help! Visit [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) to search for a car seat check event or to locate a car seat fitting station.

A correctly installed car seat could save your child's life. Find a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician today. Visit [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) to search for a car seat check event or to locate a car seat fitting station.



1-800-CAR BELT  
[www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org)



## Make Safe Choices When Buckling Up Children

Children who are correctly buckled in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt benefit from the single most effective way to protect vehicle occupants and reduce fatalities in a crash. Securing children in age and size appropriate car seats is the best way to keep children safe. It is also important to increase booster seat/seat belt use among children age 8 through 13 and to spread the message that they are safer in the back seat of a vehicle. By educating children and families on the importance of occupant protection, buckling up will become a habit for life.

### Rear-Facing



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 two 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.

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.

Forward-Facing car seats reduce the risk of injury for children up to 71% compared to children using a seat belt only.

### Belt-Positioning Booster



Once 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 properly, typically when a child is approximately 4 feet 9 inches tall and between 8 and 12 years of age.

Booster seats lower the risk of injury for children age 4 to 8 years by 45% compared to children using the seat belt alone.

### Seat Belt



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

The lap and shoulder seat belt reduces the risk of injury by 45% - 60% in passenger cars and light trucks.

## Seat Belt Safety Tips During Pregnancy

1. Wear your seat belt. Buckling up is the single most effective action to take to protect you and your unborn child in a crash. Never drive or ride in a car without buckling up.
2. Place the shoulder belt across your chest and away from your neck.
  - ◆ Do not place the shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back.
3. Secure the lap belt **BELOW** your belly, snugly across your hips and pelvic bone.
  - ◆ **NEVER** place the lap belt over or on top of the belly.
4. Adjust the vehicle seat. Keep as much distance as possible between the belly and the steering wheel.
  - ◆ When driving, if you need additional room, consider adjusting the steering wheel or having someone else drive, if possible.
  - ◆ As a passenger, move your seat back as far as possible.
5. Keep Airbags Activated. Seat belts and air bags work together to provide the best protection for you and your unborn child.

**If you are involved in a crash, seek medical attention, even if you think you are not injured, regardless if you were the driver or passenger.**



# Achieving Correct Car Seat Use

## SELECTION

Select a car seat, belt-positioning booster seat, or seat belt that is appropriate for the child's age, weight, height, and developmental level.

Check the car seat to determine if it is:

- ◆ Expired,
- ◆ Recalled, or
- ◆ Missing labels.

Examine the car seat to assure it is in good working condition and has not been involved in a crash.

**Why:** Car seats and booster seats protect passengers who are too small to get the full safety benefit from an adult seat belt. Car Seats and belt-positioning booster seats:

- ◆ Are designed to keep children in position within the vehicle.
- ◆ Prevent contact with interior surfaces of the vehicle and other occupants.
- ◆ Provide "ride-down" by extending the time it takes for the child to slow down and reduces the crash forces exerted on the child's body.



### Rear Facing:

- ◆ Infant
- ◆ Convertible

### Forward Facing:

- ◆ Convertible
- ◆ Combination
- ◆ 3-in-1, 4-in-1, 5-in-1



### Belt-Positioning Booster Seat:

- ◆ High-Back
- ◆ Backless



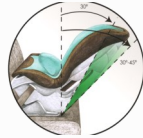
### Vehicle Seat Belt

- ◆ Lap and Shoulder Seat Belt

## DIRECTION

Place the car seat on the vehicle seat facing the correct direction based on the child's age, weight, height, and developmental level.

- ◆ Rear-Facing
- ◆ Forward-Facing



**Why:** Moving children to the next car seat stage before they are ready puts them at greater risk for injury in a crash. Children younger than 2 years are better protected by riding rear-facing to the height and weight limits of their convertible car seat.

- ◆ NHTSA suggests that children ride rear-facing to the upper limits of their car seat. Convertible car seats with higher rear-facing weight and height limits allow children to ride rear-facing beyond 2 years of age.

The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that children:

- ◆ Ride in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- ◆ Once children have outgrown 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 their car seat manufacturer.

**Children are also being moved to a belt-positioning booster seat or a seat belt early, putting them at greater risk.**

## LOCATION

Place the car seat or belt-positioning booster seat in an appropriate location in the vehicle.

- ◆ **Forward-facing vehicle seat, and**
- ◆ **Seat belt or LATCH is available to tightly secure the car seat.**

**Why:** The safest place for children younger than 13 years of age to ride is the back seat, away from frontal air bags.

- ◆ The back seat eliminates the risk of being injured by the passenger-side front air bag, which is designed to provide additional protection for adults who are properly secured with the seat belt.
- ◆ Read the vehicle owner's manual to locate the air bags in the vehicle.
- ◆ **NEVER place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active passenger-side front air bag.**
- ◆ Consider the occupant protection needs of all passengers when installing a car seat. Select a seating position in a back seat that will provide an optimal installation for the car seat.
- ◆ Consider family needs. If parking on a busy street, place the child's car seat on the curb side for optimal protection when accessing the vehicle.
- ◆ **NEVER leave children alone in the car, not even for a minute.**

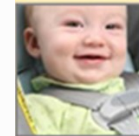
## HARNESS ADJUSTMENT AND FIT

Secure the child correctly in the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt, following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.

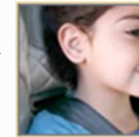
**Why:** Correct harness adjustment and fit or a properly positioned lap and shoulder belt, in a belt-positioning booster seat or vehicle seat, ensures the child is able to take advantage of the crash protection that the harness or seat belt provides.

- ◆ The harness holds the child snugly in the car seat. The correctly secured child will not slide up or out of position in a crash.

**Rear-Facing:** The harness is placed **AT or BELOW** the child's shoulders.

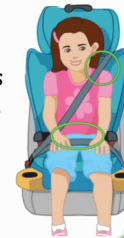


**Forward-Facing:** The harness is placed **AT or ABOVE** the child's shoulders.



**Belt-Positioning Booster Seat and Seat Belt:** Correct seat belt fit is very important.

- ◆ Shoulder belt is snug across the center of the child's shoulder and chest.
- ◆ Lap belt is low and snug across the child's hips/upper thighs.



## INSTALLATION

Install the car seat or booster seat in the vehicle correctly.

**Why:** A car seat that is installed correctly provides optimal protection in a crash, and improves the child's safety.

- ◆ Car seats can be installed with either the seat belt or the lower anchors.



- ◆ Forward-facing car seats should always utilize the tether, following the car seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions.



Tightly install the car seat using either the seat belt or lower anchor connectors.

- ◆ Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path.
- ◆ Buckle and lock the seat belt or attach the 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.
- ◆ While the seat belt and lower anchor systems are different, they are equally safe. Follow the car seat instructions and vehicle manual guidance to secure the car seat. Use the seat belt or lower anchors – but NOT both (unless approved by the car seat and vehicle manufacturer).

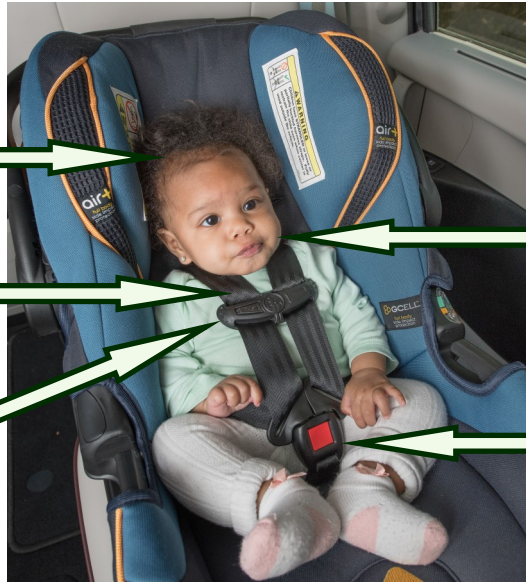


# Rear-Facing Car Seat Basics

Child's head is at least one-inch below the top of the car seat shell.

Harness is snug and you cannot pinch any extra webbing between thumb and forefinger.

Chest clip is at armpit level.



Harness straps are threaded through the slots that are **at or below** the child's shoulders.



Buckle webbing is threaded through the slot that is closest to child's body. The child should not be sitting on the harness buckle strap.

## Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Rear-Facing Car Seat



### Selection

- ☐ Confirm the car seat is in good condition, and has not been recalled or reached the car seat manufacturer's expiration date.
- ☐ Read the car seat instructions and/or label to make sure the car seat is appropriate for the child's age, weight and height.
- ☐ The car seat fits the vehicle and can be used correctly on every trip.



### Direction

- ☐ Keep the child in a rear-facing car seat until age 2 or until they reach the maximum weight or height of the car seat. When the child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, secure the child in a forward-facing car seat.



### Location

- ☐ Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat when there is an active front passenger side air bag.
- ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years of age in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.



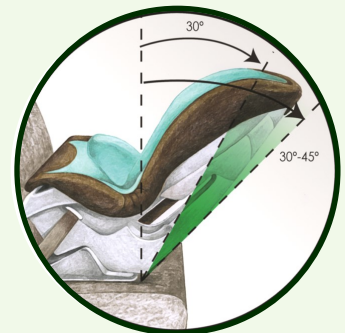
### Harness Adjustment and Fit

- ☐ Place the child with their back and bottom against the car seat back. Thread the harness straps through the correct slots **at or below** the child's shoulders following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ Secure the child with a snug harness.
  - 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

- ☐ Place the car seat on the vehicle seat, adjusting the recline angle following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- ☐ Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower connectors through the correct rear-facing belt path.
- ☐ Confirm the car seat does NOT move side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when tested at the belt path.





# Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics

The mid-point of the back of the child's head or the top of the ears are not above the shell of the car seat.

Harness is snug and you cannot pinch any extra webbing between thumb and forefinger.

Chest clip is at armpit level.



Harness straps are threaded through the slots that are **at or above** the child's shoulders.



The child is seated with their body in contact with the car seat back.

## Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Forward-Facing Car Seat



### Selection

- ☐ Read the car seat instructions and/or label to make sure the car seat is appropriate for the child's age, weight and height.
- ☐ Confirm that the child's ears are not above the top of the car seat shell. Be aware of minimum and maximum height, and weight limits.
- ☐ Seat the child in the car seat with their back and bottom in contact with the back of the car seat.
- ☐ A child should remain in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until reaching the maximum weight or height limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer.



### Direction

- ☐ Check the car seat instructions to determine the correct forward-facing car seat angle. Car seats may need to be placed in the upright position or may allow for the car seat to be in a semi-upright position when forward-facing.



### Location

- ☐ Choose a seating location that allows for the correct use and installation of the car seat.
- ☐ Determine whether the seat belt or lower anchor connectors will be used to secure the car seat. Read the car seat instructions and the vehicle manual to determine lower anchor weight limits. Weight limits on lower anchors and tether can affect whether the seat belt or lower anchors can be used to secure the car seat.
- ☐ Choose a seating location with a seat belt that can be locked and a tether anchor or with an approved LATCH system, (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children).
- ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years of age in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.



### Harness Adjustment and Fit

- ☐ Place the harness through the harness slots **at or above** the shoulder following the car seat manufacturer's instructions. Assure the buckle is positioned close to the child.
- ☐ Secure the child with a snug harness. 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

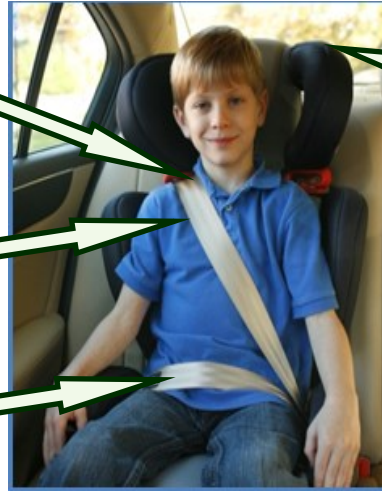
- ☐ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate upright or semi-upright angle when installing the car seat in the forward-facing position.
- ☐ Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower connectors through the correct forward-facing belt path. Do not exceed the maximum weight limit of the lower anchors.
- ☐ Attach and secure the tether when using 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.

# Belt-Positioning Booster Seat Basics

Adjust the head restraint height so the shoulder belt guides are at or slightly above the top of the child's shoulders.

Shoulder belt is placed across the center of the chest and shoulder and in contact with the child's shoulder.

Lap belt is positioned low, across the child's hips, touching the upper thighs.



Position the height of the booster seat or vehicle seat head restraint to provide support for the child's head. The child's head should not be above the top of the booster seat's head restraint or the back of the vehicle seat / head restraint.

## Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Belt-Positioning Booster Seat (Booster Seat)



### Selection

- ☐ Select a belt-positioning booster seat only when the child has outgrown a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
- ☐ Read the booster seat instructions and/or label for the weight and height ranges and guidance on correct use.
- ☐ The top of the child's ears should not be above the vehicle seat or the top of the booster seat's head restraint.



### Direction

- ☐ Place the belt-positioning booster seat forward-facing and flat on the vehicle seat.



### Location

- ☐ Select a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt.
- ☐ Confirm the child has appropriate head support from either the vehicle seat / head restraint or the back of the booster seat.
- ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.



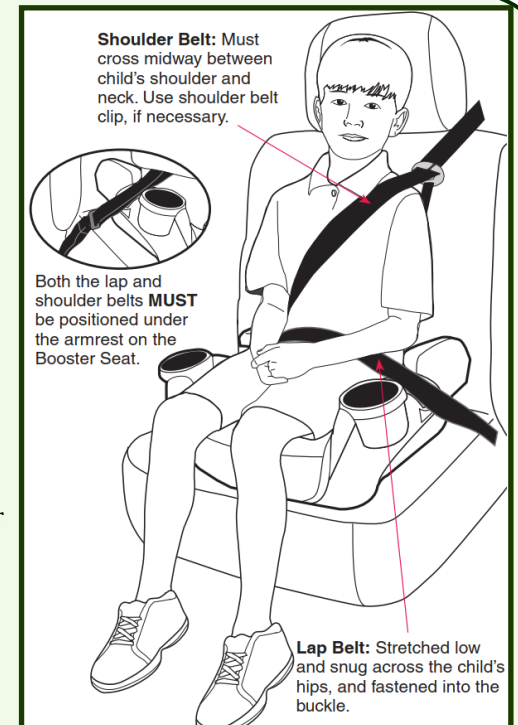
### Harness Adjustment and Fit

- ☐ Confirm the lap and shoulder belts are laying flat against the child's body.
- ☐ Position the shoulder belt across the center of the chest and shoulder. Use the shoulder belt guide on the booster seat for correct placement of the shoulder belt.
- ☐ Position the lap belt low and across the child's hips. The lap belt is generally placed under the booster seat arm rests. Follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for correct belt routing.



### Installation

- ☐ Read the vehicle owner's manual for information on adjusting the lap and shoulder belts and the head restraint.
- ☐ Always use a lap and shoulder belt to secure a child seated in a belt-positioning booster seat.
- ☐ Some belt-positioning booster seats have lower anchors to position and keep the seat in place.
  - ☐ 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.



Example: Booster seat instructions on seat belt routing.



# Seat Belt Basics

Adjust the head restraint height so that it is directly behind and close to the child's head.

Lap belt is positioned low, across the child's hips, touching the upper thighs.

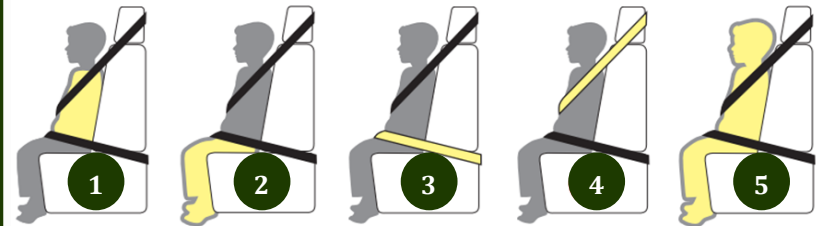


Shoulder belt is placed across the center of the chest and shoulder and in contact with the child's shoulder.

## Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Seat Belt

- ✓ **Selection**
  - ☐ Secure children in a seat belt when they are big enough for the seat belt to fit correctly.
  - ☐ Select a seating position that has a lap and shoulder belt.
    - ☐ Select a lap only belt seating position if necessary. A lap belt provides no upper body protection, but is better than no seat belt.
- ✓ **Direction**
  - ☐ Secure the child seated forward-facing on the vehicle seat.
  - ☐ Confirm the child has appropriate head support from the vehicle seat or head restraint.
- ✓ **Location**
  - ☐ Select a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt.
  - ☐ Confirm the child has appropriate head support from either the vehicle seat or head restraint.
    - ☐ The top of the child's ears should not be above the vehicle seat or head restraint. Position the head restraint:
      - ☐ At least as high as the top of the ears, and preferably the top of the head, and
      - ☐ As close to the back of the head as is comfortable.
  - ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.
- ✓ **Harness Adjustment and Fit**
  - ☐ Confirm the lap and shoulder belt are laying flat against the child's body, positioned across the center of the chest and low and snug across the hips.
    - ☐ Confirm the shoulder belt is not placed under the arm or behind the back.
- ✓ **Installation**
  - ☐ Read the vehicle owner's manual for information on adjusting the lap and shoulder belts and the head restraint.
  - ☐ Always use a lap and shoulder belt to secure a child.
  - ☐ Confirm that a child is seated in the proper position for the length of travel.

## 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?     |



# Buckle-Up Safely: A Guide for Family Safety

## Register 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.



Car seats can be registered:

- ◆ Online at the car seat manufacturer's website:
  - ◆ Complete the form,
  - ◆ Providing the car seat model number and manufacture date.
- ◆ By Mail with the car seat registration card:
  - ◆ Complete the card,
  - ◆ The model number and manufacture date are on the card.
  - ◆ No postage is required to mail the card.
- ◆ Online at:  
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-boosters-seats>.
  - ◆ Go to Registration,
  - ◆ Select the manufacturer of the car seat.
  - ◆ Complete the form and submit.

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

## 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.



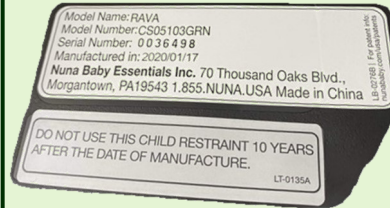
**Wash as Directed:** Use mild soap and the water temperature as directed for the car seat pad or parts. Do NOT use bleach or strong cleaners.

- ◆ **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

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



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

- ◆ 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.

### 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.

## Air Bags And Back Seat Safety

Air bags and seat belts work together to protect adults and older children who are correctly seated and buckled.

**Children under 13 years of age should ride in the back seat away from the frontal air bag whenever possible.**

### Why?

The frontal air bag may cause injury to a child who is not large enough to take the force of its impact.



Best Practice recommendations:

- ◆ Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat in a vehicle with a front passenger-side air bag.
- ◆ If a forward-facing child must sit in the front seat with a front passenger-side air bag:
  - ◆ Check the car seat instructions for warnings about placing a car seat or belt-positioning booster seat in front of an air bag.
  - ◆ If permitted, make sure the child is properly secured in an appropriate car seat or booster seat, and
  - ◆ Move the vehicle seat as far back from the air bag as possible.

## Seat Belt Safety Starts with Good Role Models

Learning the importance of wearing a seat belt starts with a good role model. Research shows that children whose parents buckle up are much more likely to buckle up themselves.

As a parent, you are your child's strongest influence when it comes to buckling up every time you get in the car. Safety is the responsibility of the driver and all passengers.



**Consistency is Key:** Remind children to buckle up on every trip, every time. Always buckle up before moving the car, no matter how short or routine the drive, and make sure all children are buckled up correctly.

**Never Give Up Until They Buckle Up:** Make sure children are buckled up with their lap and shoulder belt used correctly. The risk of injury among child passengers is significantly higher when their seat belts are loose and/or improperly positioned. Motivate children to buckle up properly and consistently using age-appropriate messages and rewards to reinforce the importance of seat belt safety.

## Keeping Children Safe In and Around Cars

Today's vehicles are equipped with many safety features designed to protect children and families. Even with new safety features, six common dangers have been identified for children who are playing near vehicles. Even the most careful parents can overlook these dangers. Always supervise children when they are in and around vehicles. Review the following tips to learn how to limit a child's risk. Talk to children and teach them how to avoid these dangerous situations.

**Heatstroke:** Children die each year from heatstroke after entering a vehicle unnoticed or being left alone in a vehicle. Heatstroke can occur at any time of the year. Even in cooler temperatures, the vehicle can heat up to dangerous temperatures very quickly. The inside temperature of a vehicle can rise almost 20° Fahrenheit within the first 10 minutes.

**Always:**

Check the back seats of the vehicle before you lock it and walk away. Lock the vehicle and keep the keys out of reach. Take action if you see a child alone in a car:

♦ **If the child is not responsive or in distress, immediately:**

- ♦ Call 911.
- ♦ Get the child out of the car.
- ♦ Spray the child with cool water (not an ice bath).

♦ **If the child is responsive:**

- ♦ Stay with the child until help arrives.
- ♦ Have someone else search for the driver or ask the facility to page them.



**Power Windows:** Children can hurt themselves with power windows. Children can be injured if a window closes on their finger, wrist, hand, or neck. Newer vehicles have child safety settings, "pull to close" switches, or power windows that reverse when it detects an object is in the path of the closing window or sunroof.

**Never:**

- ♦ Leave children alone in the vehicle
- ♦ Leave the keys in the ignition or in the "on" or "accessory" position when you exit the vehicle.

**Always:**

- ♦ Properly secure children in an appropriate car seat.
- ♦ Activate the power window lock switch so children cannot play with the windows.

Teach children to not play with window switches or climb on vehicle door armrests.



**Trunk Entrapment:** Children are naturally curious and love to explore their surroundings. Unsupervised children may climb into the vehicle trunk and become trapped. Children being entrapped in vehicle trunks can suffer heatstroke, asphyxiation and death. To avoid entrapment, heed the following safety and prevention tips.

**Always:**

- ♦ Check the trunk immediately if a child is missing.
- ♦ Lock the car doors and trunk. Place keys and remote entry devices out of a child's reach.
- ♦ Keep the rear fold-down seats upright and locked to keep children from climbing into the trunk from inside the car.

**Teach children that vehicle trunks are for cargo, not for playing.**



**Back Over:** A back over incident typically occurs when a car coming out of a driveway or parking space backs over a child. Many cars are equipped with rearview video cameras or warning sounds, but do not rely on these devices to detect what is behind the vehicle. Children are unpredictable.

**Always:**

- ♦ Walk around the vehicle to check for children before backing up. Actively check mirrors while backing up slowly
- ♦ Roll down a window to hear what is happening outside of the car.

**Teach children to:**

- ♦ Play away from cars and to keep toys and bikes out of the driveway.
- ♦ Move away from a vehicle when a driver gets into a car or the car is started.
- ♦ Stand to the side of the driveway or sidewalk to be easily seen as a vehicle is backing out of a driveway or parking space.



**Seat Belt Entanglement:** A seated child is within reach of a seat belt and may become entangled if the seat belt is pulled all the way out and becomes wrapped around the head, neck, or waist. Seat belt entanglement can happen in the blink of an eye. Never leave your children alone in or around a vehicle for any reason.

If a child has an unused seat belt within reach:

- ♦ Buckle the unused seat belt,
- ♦ Pull it all the way out then feed the excess webbing back into the retractor.

**Teach children that seat belts are not toys.**



**Vehicle Rollaway:** Leaving a child unattended in a vehicle with the keys in the ignition is never safe. Unattended children can accidentally cause the vehicle to roll—or even drive—away, especially if the engine is running. Vehicles equipped with a keyless ignition or push-button start feature can rollaway when the vehicle has been turned off and not shifted into park.

- ♦ Always ensure the vehicle is securely in the "Park" position before shutting the vehicle off and exiting.
- ♦ Never leave keys in the car.

Keep vehicle locked when unattended and supervise children carefully when in and around vehicles.





# Pennsylvania CPS Law

**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; \$20.00 EMS Fund and \$22.00 Administrative Costs.

The fine shall be dismissed if the person prior to or at their 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; \$20.00 EMS Fund and \$22.00 Administrative Costs.



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.

## The Road to Safety



## Child Passenger Safety Resources

- ◆ There are approximately 1,775 nationally certified child passenger safety technicians in Pennsylvania who teach parents and caregivers how to properly use their child's car seat.
- ◆ There are 220 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 [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://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/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats>, NHTSA's parent resource page, for information on making sure you are using the correct car seat for your child's age and size.



# CPS Week & Seat Check Saturday Data Collection

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 24. 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. Help us to get the word out about car seat checks and educational efforts being conducted throughout Pennsylvania. **Please submit information about your event in one of the following ways:**

♦ **Online at [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) on the "2022 CPS Week" page or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPSWeek2022EventReg>**

♦ **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 also be completed at [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org) on the "2022 CPS Week" page or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPSWeek2022EventData>. The event data can also be submitted by FAX or email.** Please complete and send the Event Data Collection form by September 30th. The data from each event will be compiled and submitted to PennDOT and NHTSA. Thank you!

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Walk-Ins ☐ Appointment Required ☐ Appointment & Walk-Ins ☐ Virtual Check by Appointment

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	Car Seats Checked	Car Seats Distributed	# of Car Seats Registered on Site

