

Child Passenger Safety Week

2019 Planner



Dear Safety Advocate:

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading killer of children 12 and younger. From 2013-2017, there were 3,313 children killed while riding in cars, pickups, vans, and SUVs. While child fatalities and injuries were down in 2017, there is still more work to do to eliminate these preventable tragedies. (Eight percent decrease in fatalities; estimated 19 percent decrease in injuries from 2016.)

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK, September 15-21, 2019 is a campaign dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of children being secured as safely as possible—every trip, every time. The car seat check events scheduled throughout the week provide hands-on advice and instruction 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.

As children grow and transition from one type of car seat to another, parents sometimes become less vigilant about ensuring that their child is properly buckled in the right car seat, booster seat or seat belt for their age and size. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported the following percentage of child fatalities who were unrestrained in passenger vehicles:

- ◆ 16% of children less than 1 year of age;
- ◆ 24% of children who were 1 to 3 years of age;
- ◆ 33% of children who were 4 to 7 years of age;
- ◆ 48% of children who were 8 to 12 years of age; and
- ◆ 64% of children who were 13 to 14 years of age. (NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts Children 2016 Data, revised April 2018)

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 2019 Child Passenger Safety Week theme, **"Click it Tight. It is Worth Their Life to do it Right."** highlights the best way to protect each child is to correctly secure each child on every trip, every time. The Five Steps for Correct Use include:

- ◆ Selecting the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that fits the child and the car, and will be used correctly every time.
- ◆ Positioning children facing the rear of the vehicle until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of their car seat. Pennsylvania law requires children to remain rear-facing until two years of age.
- ◆ Placing the child in a back seat child in a seating position that allows for correct use following the car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.
- ◆ Installing the car seat / booster seat correctly using the vehicle seat belt or Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH).
- ◆ Securing children with a correctly routed and snug harness.

Materials included in this planner provide evidenced-based best practice recommendations for the use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts for children of all ages. 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 misused car seat can be devastating.

Please contact us if we can support your efforts in promoting Child Passenger Safety Week. PA TIPP will compile a list of all events and activities for PennDOT and NHTSA. To have your event included on the statewide list, complete 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

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Child Safety Seat Key Statistics

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- ◆ Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children.
- ◆ Every 32 seconds in 2017, one child under the age of 13 in a passenger vehicle was involved in a crash.
- ◆ On average, nearly two children under 13 were killed every day in 2017 while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans.
- ◆ In 2017, over one-third (35%) of children under 13 killed in passenger vehicles were not restrained in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts.
- ◆ Of the children under 13 involved in crashes in 2017, an estimated 14 percent were injured.

Car Seats, Booster Seats, and Seat Belts Save Lives

- ◆ Nationally, in 2017, 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-percent of the time.
 - ◆ An additional 59 children could have survived if car seat use was at 100 percent.
- ◆ In Pennsylvania from 2013—2017, 82 percent of the children under age 4, who were involved in crashes and restrained in a car seat, sustained no injury. (2017 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics)
- ◆ Pennsylvania seat belt usage rate was 88.5 percent in 2018. National statistics show that for every one percent increase in seat belt usage, eight to twelve lives can be saved on the highways.

Sample Press Release

Sponsoring Organization Logo (PennDOT releases must follow department template)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2019

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

Town/City/Borough, PA – As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, which runs from September 15 through September 21, 2019, **(Organization(s))** today announced they will partner to **(WHAT)**. This campaign is dedicated to helping parents and caregivers make sure their children ride as safely as possible—every trip, every time. This year's theme, "Click it Tight. It is Worth Their Life to do it Right" highlights the need for all children to buckle up using the right car seat, booster seat, or seat belt every time they travel.

Motor vehicle crashes remains the leading killer of children. Using a car seat that is age- and size-appropriate is the best way to keep a child safe. According to NHTSA, in 2017, 312 children under the age of 5 were saved because they were using restraints.

"Every 32 seconds in 2017, a child under 13 was involved in a vehicle crash," said **[spokesperson]**. "Car seats matter and having the right car seat installed and used the right way is critical."

Parents who wear their seat belt are important role models for a child learning good habits in and around vehicles. Research shows that children are more likely to be buckled when the driver is buckled. That is why it is important, not only for a parent's safety but for their children, that adults always wear their seat belt before putting the car into drive. Make certain that everyone in the car is protected, that every child is secured in the right car seat and that it is installed and used correctly.

In Pennsylvania, the driver is responsible for securing children in the appropriate child restraint system. Children under the age of two must be secured in a rear-facing car seat, and children under the age of four must be restrained in an approved child safety seat. Children must ride in a booster seat until their eighth birthday.

Pennsylvania law requires any occupant younger than 18 to buckle up when riding in a vehicle, as well as drivers and front-seat passengers. Additionally, 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 or if you are unable to afford a car seat, call 1-800-CAR-BELT or visit www.pakidstravelsafe.org to find the nearest car seat loan program. Child Safety Seat Inspection Stations and Community Car Seat Checkup Events are also provided on the website.

MEDIA CONTACT: Your Name, 717-XXX-XXXX

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Child Safety Seat Statistics and Research

Lives Lost and Injuries

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- ◆ From 2013 to 2017, there were 3,313 children under 13 killed while riding in passenger vehicles. Fatalities decreased in 2017 from 2016, the first decrease since 2014.
- ◆ From 2013 to 2017, there were 1,161 "tweens" (8 to 12 years old) killed in passenger vehicles.
- ◆ In 2017, the <1-to-3 age group had the highest number of fatalities (247, or 37%) among children in passenger vehicles, which is a two-percent increase from 2016. Of those aged 3 and under who were killed, approximately 22 percent were unbuckled.
- ◆ From 2016 to 2017, the number of children under 13 injured in a crash decreased by an estimated 19 percent.



Resources on Child Passenger Safety:

- ◆ There are approximately 1,750 nationally certified child passenger safety technicians in Pennsylvania who teach parents and caregivers how to properly use their child's car seat.
- ◆ There are 203 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 or call 1-800 CAR BELT for a listing of child safety seat events and safety information for car seats.
- ◆ Visit 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.
- ◆ Visit www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/TrafficSafetyAndDriverTopics/Pages/Child-Passenger-Safety.aspx or www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/Pages/default.aspx, PennDOT's highway safety website, for Pennsylvania information on seat belt use, safe driving tips and other highway safety information.

Selection



Rear-Facing Under 2 years old?

- ◆ Infant
- ◆ Convertible

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. 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 Over 2 years old?

- ◆ Convertible
- ◆ Combination
- ◆ All-in-One
- ◆ 3-in-1
- ◆ 4-in-1
- ◆ 5-in-1

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 by 71% compared to children using the seat belt only.



Belt-Positioning Booster Seat

- ◆ High-back
- ◆ Backless



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 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 belts reduce the risk of injury by 45%.

Car Seat or Booster Seat Selection

Select the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is right for the child's age, weight, height, and developmental needs. **The right car seat, booster seat, or seat belt fits the child and the car, and will be used correctly every trip - every time.** Not only will the child ride as safely as possible, a child who is secured during every ride will establish a foundation for a lifelong habit of seat belt use every time the child travels.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Booster seats keep the lap belt from causing injury to a child's abdomen and keeps the shoulder belt in the proper position to provide upper body protection.
- ◆ Seat belts can be used to safely secure children when the lap belt stays low and snug across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt crosses the center of the chest and shoulder.

Selecting the correct child restraint type is the first step in making sure a child is safe in the vehicle. Be aware of height and weight limits as a child grows. When in doubt, contact a child passenger safety technician in your community.

Selection: Choose the Right Car Seat

- ◆ Always read the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual. Don't forget to register the car seat to be notified of recalls.
- ◆ Always check the minimum and maximum weight allowed for a car seat. Select a car seat that is correct for the child's weight and height.
- ◆ Select a car seat, belt-positioning booster seat, or seat belt that is in good condition (not been involved in a crash, not expired or recalled, no labels missing) and appropriate for the child.
- ◆ Always follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for guidelines on when the car seat or booster seat must be replaced.

Car Seat
Instructions

Vehicle Owner's
Manual



- ◆ **Rear-Facing:** Select a car seat that allows the child's head to be at least one-inch (1") from the top of the back of the car seat.
- ◆ **Forward-Facing:** Select a car seat where the mid-point of the head or the top of the ears are not above the top of the shell of the car seat.
- ◆ **Belt-Positioning Booster Seat:** Select a booster seat that positions the vehicle's lap belt low and snug of the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the center of the child's shoulder and chest.
- ◆ **Seat Belt:** Select a lap and shoulder belt when the child is:
 - ✓ Tall enough to sit on the vehicle seat without slouching.
 - ✓ Able to keep their back against the vehicle seat back.
 - ✓ Able to sit with their knees naturally bent over the front edge of the vehicle seat.
 - ✓ Able to keep their feet flat on the floor.

Direction

For the best possible protection, **secure children in a rear-facing car seat until the maximum weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.**

Rear-facing:

In Pennsylvania, always secure children younger than 2 years of age in a rear-facing car seat.

- ◆ The child should remain in a rear-facing car seat to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ If a child outgrows a rear-facing only car seat before age 2, use a rear-facing convertible car seat to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer.
- ◆ Many children are moved to the next car seat stage before they are ready, which puts them at greater risk for injury in a crash.
- ◆ Children younger than 2 years are better protected by riding rear-facing to the limits of their convertible car seat
- ◆ Children moved prematurely from harnessed car seats to a booster seats, as well as from booster seats to adult seat belts, puts them at greater risk for injury if the seat belt does not fit correctly.



Forward-Facing:

When children outgrow a 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.

- ◆ Children are also being moved prematurely from harnessed car seats into booster seats, as well as from booster seats into adult seat belts, which puts them at greater risk for injury if the seat belt does not fit them correctly.



Rear-facing:

- ◆ The shell of the car seat absorbs the forces of the crash across the entire head, neck and back.

Forward-facing:

- ◆ The harness absorbs the forces of a crash and holds the child in the vehicle.

Turning your child forward-facing too soon:

Turning a child forward-facing before age two can result in head, neck or spinal cord injury in a crash due to their fragile spinal cords and still developing bodies.

- ◆ Keep children in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit recommended by the car seat manufacturer.
- ◆ Rear-facing car seats distribute the forces of a crash across the entire head and body of the child. The shell of the car seat absorbs the crash forces.
- ◆ Transfer a child who has outgrown a rear-facing only car seat to a rear-facing convertible car seat until the maximum weight or height is reached.



Location

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

Securing children in the front seat:

- ◆ Never place a **rear-facing** car seat in the front vehicle seat if the passenger-side front air bag is turned on.
- ◆ If it is necessary to secure a child in a **forward-facing** car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side front seat air bag.
 - ◆ Turn the air bag off ; or
 - ◆ Move the vehicle seat back as far as possible, away from the air bag.
- ◆ Read and follow car seat manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual to determine the effect of side-impact air bags.



Install the Car Seat in the Right Seating Position in the Car

- ◆ There may be many seating positions in a vehicle, not all are suitable to secure a car seat.
- ◆ The car seat manufacturer instructions and/or the vehicle owner's manual may not permit securing a car seat in certain seating positions.
- ◆ Some vehicle manufacturers do not allow a car seat to be secured in the center seating position in a back seat.
- ◆ Select a seating position that allows for correct use of the car seat following the car seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Weight limits on lower anchors and tether anchor locations may affect the seating position choice.

The safest place for children under the age of 13 to ride is the back seat. Children are better protected from head-on collisions, which constitute about 60 percent of all crashes.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Consider the occupant protection needs of all passengers when installing a car seat. Select a seating position that will provide an optimal installation for the car seat. The middle seat in the back is often referred to as the "best seating location" for car seats because of the protection from side impact crashes, but any back vehicle seat is preferable to a front seat.
- ◆ Consider family needs. If parking on a busy street, place the child's car seat on the curb side for optimal protection when entering and exiting the vehicle.
- ◆ NEVER leave children alone in the car, not even for a minute.



Installation

Installation Tips

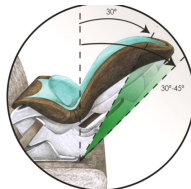
Always read and follow the car seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual.

Seat Belt/LATCH

- ◆ Car seat should be secured with the vehicle seat belt or lower anchor connector routed through the correct belt path.
- ◆ Seat belt/lower anchor connector is tight and locked in place allowing no more than 1-inch of side-to-side movement when pulled at the belt path.
- ◆ The installation should be checked for tightness each time the car seat is used.
- ◆ Always use the tether when installing a car seat forward-facing with the seat belt or lower anchors.

Install the Car Seat in the Right Way

- ◆ **Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for the correct rear-facing or forward-facing angle position; reclined, semi-reclined, or upright angle.**
- ◆ Secure the rear-facing car seat with the vehicle seat belt or lower anchors.
- ◆ Secure the forward-facing car seat with the seat belt or lower anchors and the tether, following manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Secure a booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt.



Make sure the car seat does not move from side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when pulled at the belt path.

General Method to Obtain a Tight 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 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 with the seat belt or lower anchor connectors on a forward-facing car seat.

Belt Path Basics for Installation

Which belt path do I use when installing my child's car seat? Convertible car seats and All-in-1 car seats (3-in-1, 4-in-1, and 5-in-1) are products that allow for multiple uses for transporting kids. They can be used rear-facing and forward-facing, and in some cases as a booster seat.

Selecting the correct belt path is critical for a child's protection. Here are some tips to make sure you are using the right belt path during installation:

- ◆ Use the belt path that is closest to the vehicle seat back is a good rule of thumb.
- ◆ Follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions; look for labels that show rear-facing and forward-facing belt paths. Many manufacturers color code their belt paths to assist caregivers in identifying the correct belt path location.
- ◆ Route the seat belt of lower anchor webbing through the belt path ensuring the webbing is free of twists



What is the risk of using the wrong belt path? When a car seat is installed with the lower anchor connectors or the vehicle seat belt in the wrong belt path, the car seat will not perform as designed and crash-tested placing the child's safety at risk.

Rear-Facing Belt Path



Forward-Facing Belt Path



Buckling Up for Two

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 Air Bags 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.

Installation

Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH)

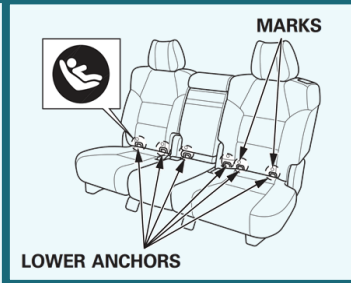
- ◆ LATCH is designed to install car seats in the vehicle using two lower anchors and one tether in place of the seat belt.
- ◆ Always look in the vehicle owner's manual to locate the lower anchors and tether anchors in the vehicle, and to determine which seating positions have the LATCH system or only a tether anchor.
- ◆ Only seating positions that have a standard LATCH system, as defined by the vehicle owner's manual, should be used for lower anchor installation.
- ◆ Read and follow the LATCH use instructions provided by the car seat manufacturer instructions and vehicle owner's manual.



The lower anchor connectors are located on the lower part of the car seat.

- ◆ The **lower anchor connectors** on the car seat attach onto the lower anchors in the vehicle.

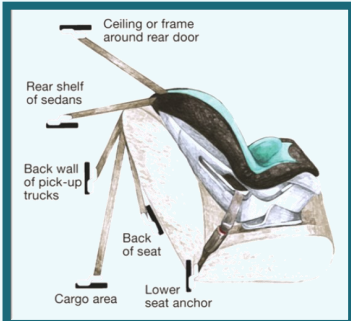
Lower anchors are the metal bars located in the vehicle seat bight.



The **tether** is located on the upper part of the back of the car seat.

- ◆ The tether hook attaches to the tether anchor in the vehicle.

Tether anchor location will vary based on what type of vehicle you drive.



Understanding Tethers

- ◆ A tether holds the back of the car seat against the vehicle seat to reduce the amount of forward and side movement in a crash.

A tether can reduce the distance that the child's head moves forward in a crash by 4 to 6 inches, lessening the risk of head injuries.

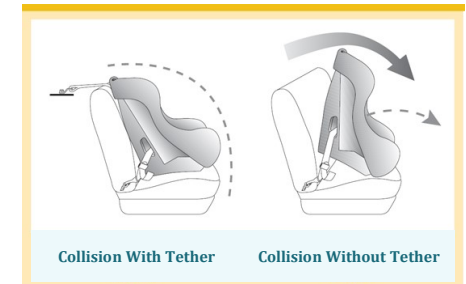
- ◆ Use the tether when installing forward-facing car seats, whenever possible. Car seats can be secured using:

- ◆ Lower anchors and the tether; or
- ◆ Seat belt and the tether.

- ◆ Tether anchor locations are identified in the vehicle manual. Tether anchors have weight limits that vary by vehicle manufacturer. Anchor weight limits are not always stated in the vehicle owner's manual.

If the vehicle manufacturer does not state a weight limit, do not use the tether if the weight of the child + the car seat combined is greater than 65 pounds.

- ◆ To provide optimum protection, a tether must be tightened and attached properly.



What you need to know about Lower Anchors

- ◆ Do not exceed the maximum weight limit of the lower anchors. **If the vehicle manufacturer does not state a weight limit, do not use the lower anchors if the child + the car seat combined weight is greater than 65 pounds.**
- ◆ Thread the lower anchor connector through the correct belt path, attach to the lower anchors and tighten.
- ◆ Use a designated LATCH seating position. In the center seating position, DO NOT use the lower anchors from the outboard seating positions, unless both the vehicle and car seat manufacturers allow. Check the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual to determine if a car seat can be installed with LATCH in a non-standard LATCH seating position.
- ◆ Never install a car seat using lower anchors and the seat belt at the same time unless specifically allowed by both the car seat and vehicle manufacturer.
- ◆ **Lower Anchor Connectors with Booster Seats:** 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.

Latch Connectors



Harnessing

Always read and follow the car seat instructions.

Secure the child properly in the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt. Correct harnessing or seat belt fit ensures the child is securely positioned and able to take advantage of the crash protection that the harness or seat belt provides.

- ◆ Correct seat belt fit, for children in boosters or in a seat belt is very important and also a common error.
- ◆ Harness straps are snugly secured to hold the child in the car seat during a crash.
 - ✓ "A snug strap should not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an un-natural position."
- ◆ Harness retainer clip is positioned at armpit level.

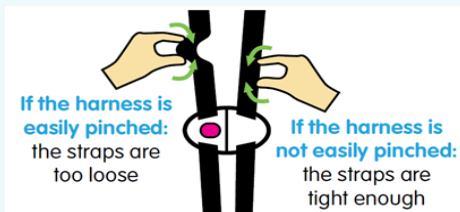
Snug Harness

- Place the child all the way back in the car seat so there is no gap between the car seat and the child's back.
- Place the harness straps as directed by the car seat manufacturer's instructions and buckle.
- 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. Make sure the harness pieces are fully inserted and secure.
- Never use additional padding under the child or between the child and the harness.

How Tight Should the Harness Be?

The harness should pass the 'pinch test'; when pinching 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 uncomfortable) at the child's shoulders and hips.



Correct Harness Tips

Correct shoulder harness height is critical to being secured and reducing the child's movement in the event of a sudden stop or crash. The less movement that occurs, the less violent forces the child feels in the collision. The harness:

- ◆ Keeps the child in the car seat during a crash.
- ◆ Contacts the strongest parts of the child's body.
- ◆ Spreads the crash forces.
- ◆ Manages the crash forces when correctly positioned.
- ◆ Protects the head, brain and spinal cord.

Always follow the car seat instructions on correct harness position.

Belt Placement with Booster Seat & Seat Belts



- ◆ Shoulder belt lays flat across the middle of the chest and shoulder.
- ◆ Lap belt lays flat across the hips touching the upper thighs.
- ◆ Seat belt routed correctly through the booster seat belt path.

Belt-Positioning Booster Seats

- Child is seated all the way back in the booster seat so there is no gap between the booster seat and the child's back.
- Position the lap belt portion of the seat belt in the belt path under the booster seat arms following car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- Position the shoulder belt across the center of the chest and shoulder. Use the shoulder belt positioner on the booster seat to keep the shoulder belt in place.
- Adjust the height of the booster seat or the vehicle head restraint to provide support for the child's head.

Four steps to correctly place a child in a car seat.

1. **Child is seated all the way back** in a car seat. The child's back and bottom should be in contact with the back and bottom of the car seat.
2. Place the harness straps in the **correct harness slots for the child**.
 - Rear-Facing:** Place the harness through the correct harness slots **AT or BELOW** the child's shoulders following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
 - Forward-Facing:** Place the harness through the correct reinforced harness slots **AT or ABOVE** the child's shoulders following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
3. Buckle and tighten the **harness straps snugly**.
4. Place the **harness retainer clip at armpit level**.

Where Do The Harness Straps Go?



Rear-facing seats

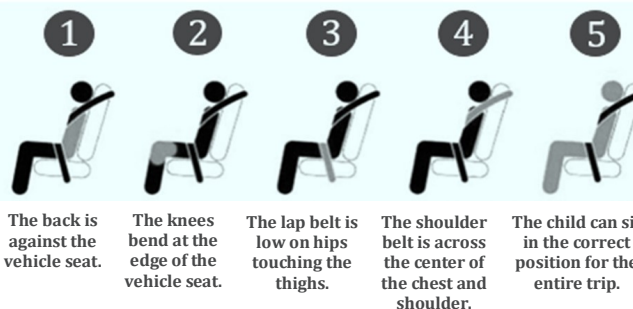
Straps should originate **AT or BELOW** the child's shoulders



Forward-facing seats

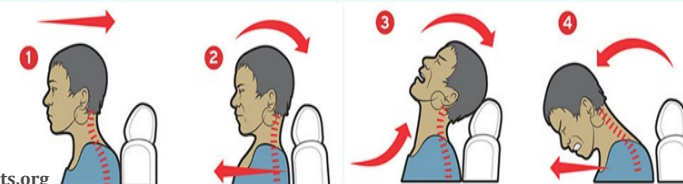
Straps should originate **AT or ABOVE** the child's shoulders

The Child is Ready for a Seat Belt When:



- ◆ Shoulder belt lays flat across the middle of the chest and shoulder.
- ◆ Lap belt lays flat across the hips touching the upper thighs.

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



www.consumerreports.org

The four images illustrate a typical impact.

Teach Children to Buckle Up - Every Time

Teaching Tweens to Buckle Up!

Child Passenger Safety Week is a great time to reinforce the importance of vehicle safety for children of all ages. As children grow, the way you talk to children about seat belt safety may change, but the message will remain the same: **Buckling up is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash and wearing the seat belt will save lives.** Teach your family that safety is the responsibility of all passengers as well as the driver.

NHTSA data shows that as children get older they are less likely to want to buckle up. **Nationally, over the past 5 years, 1,552 children between the ages of 8 and 14 died in motor vehicle crashes; of those who died, almost half were not buckled up.**

Many times, deaths and injuries can be prevented by making sure the child is properly buckled up. Life as a parent is full of compromises, but seat belt safety for children of any age is not up for negotiation. Set the example of buckling up every time you get into the car. A parent or caregiver has the primary influence on whether a child wears a seat belt during every ride. Research shows that children whose parents buckle up are much more likely to buckle up themselves. The habits that children form as tweens and teenagers will follow them through their lives, and car seat and seat belt safety is crucial for their well-being.



Correctly Using a Vehicle Seat Belt

Seat belt use is one of the most effective ways to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes. Seat belts prevent drivers and passengers from being ejected during a crash.

- ☐ Use a lap and shoulder belt.
- ☐ Secure the child seated forward-facing on the vehicle seat.
- ☐ Select a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt.
- ☐ Confirm the child has appropriate head support from the vehicle seat/head restraint. Position the head restraint:
 - ☐ At least as high as the top of the ears, and preferably the top of the head.
 - ☐ As close to the back of the head as is comfortable. The distance between the back of the head and the head restraint should be no more than 3 inches.
- ☐ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicle.
- ☐ Confirm that a child is seated in the proper position for the entire trip.
- ☐ 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.



What You Can Do

- ♦ **Consistently Model Seat Belt Safety.** Wear your seat belt and insist that all family members do the same. Buckling up is not a one-time conversation—it is ongoing. Set the example by always wearing your seat belt, and remind teens that buckling up is the law. Learning the importance of wearing a seat belt starts with a good role model—and that's you.
- ♦ **Never Give Up Until They Buckle Up.** Make sure children are buckled up with the lap and shoulder belt—no shoulder belts behind their backs or under their arms, or seat belts so loose that they can wrestle in the back seat. Motivate children to buckle up properly and consistently using age-appropriate messages and rewards to reinforce the importance of seat belt safety. As a parent, consistency is key: Never give up until you're kids are buckled up!
- ♦ **Never Assume A Child Is Buckled Up.** Remind children to wear a lap and shoulder seat belt every time they get into a car—no matter whose car it is—and to stay buckled up, including at night and on longer rides.
- ♦ **Keep Children in a Back Seat.** All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat for maximum safety. The back seat is the safest place for a child because most crashes occur in the front of the car and the back seat is farthest from the impact.
- ♦ **Fitting a Child Correctly in a Seat Belt.** The time to transition a child out of a booster seat and into a seat belt usually comes when the child is between 8 and 12 years old. Keep a child in booster seats until the size limits of the booster seat are reached or the child is big enough to fit properly in the vehicle seat belt. Seat belts can be used to safely secure a child in a vehicle when the child is:
 - ♦ Tall enough to sit without slouching with their back against the vehicle seat back;
 - ♦ Able to keep their knees naturally bent over the edge of the vehicle seat;
 - ♦ Able to keep their feet flat on the floor; and
 - ♦ Able to wear the seat belt correctly positioned across their body.
 - ♦ The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest, and not cross the neck or face.
 - ♦ The lap belt must lie snugly across the hips touching the upper thighs, not the stomach.
 - ♦ Never allow a child to put the shoulder belt under an arm or behind the back, increasing their chance of sustaining severe injuries in a crash.



Cleaning Car Seats with Safety in Mind

Read Car Seat Manufacturer's Instructions

- ◆ Each car seat manufacturer has specific instructions on how to clean their car seat. Follow the cleaning instructions provided by the manufacturer.

Maintain Car Seat Between Cleanings

- ◆ Routinely vacuum crumbs or food and wipe down the car seat. Spot cleaning will make it easier to maintain the car seat and it may be less likely to take the car seat apart for cleaning.



Wash as Directed

Use mild soap and the water temperature as directed by the car seat manufacturer's instructions when washing the car seat pad or parts. Do NOT use bleach or strong cleaners.

- ◆ **Car Seat Pad:** Confirm whether the pad is machine washable or must be cleaned by hand washing.
 - ◆ Plan on air drying the pad, unless the instructions say using the dryer is permitted.
- ◆ **Car Seat Harness:** Many harnesses cannot be immersed in water.
 - ◆ Manufacturers recommend wiping the harness with mild soap and water to clean 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 any labels when cleaning the car seat.
- ◆ **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 to ensure proper latching. Make sure the buckle is functioning properly and is free of debris. To clean:

- ◆ Remove the buckle from the car seat.
- ◆ Thoroughly rinse the buckle with warm water.
 - ◆ Do Not submerge the buckle webbing into the water.
 - ◆ Do Not soak the buckle or use soap, household detergents, solvents, or lubricants.
- ◆ Remove the buckle from the water and shake out any excess water. Allow the buckle to air dry.
- ◆ Test the buckle by fastening and unfastening the buckle tongues on both sides of the buckle until you hear a click. If you do not hear a click for each buckle tongue you may need to repeat the cleaning process.
- ◆ Never use oil lubricants or chemicals in the buckle as it may change the way the buckle functions.



Allow Time for the Cleaning the Car Seat

- ◆ Proper cleaning takes time. Make sure you allow time for the car seat padding, buckle and all the cleaned parts to fully dry. Air drying may take several hours or even a day. Make other arrangements for children who need to be transported during this time.
- ◆ Consider ordering replacement parts for any extra dirty messes when cleaning the part is not enough. Manufacturers offer replacement parts for their car seats. Contact customer service to determine if a replacement part is available for the car seat. Be sure to have the model number and manufacture date available when ordering a replacement part.

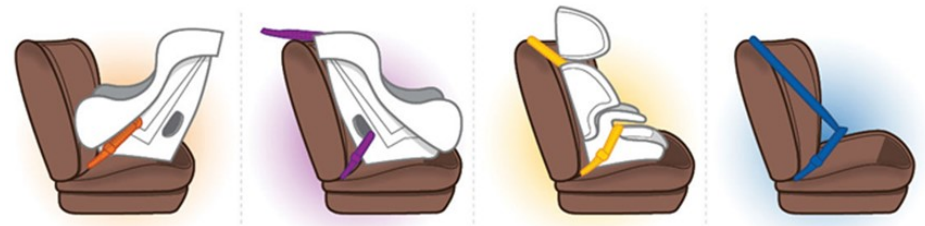
Reassemble the Car Seat Correctly



- ◆ Carefully follow the car seat instructions to assemble the car seat correctly.
- ◆ Take pictures of the car seat parts and harness assembly before taking the car seat apart. The pictures will serve as a guide as you reassemble the car seat.
- ◆ Make sure the harness is not twisted.
- ◆ Pull on the harness system to make sure it is securely installed.
- ◆ Follow the car seat instructions to correctly insert the buckle through the shell and pad of the car seat.

Use Caution when Using Extra Products

- ◆ Children can be messy in the car. Many parents purchase seat protector pads to place between the vehicle seat and the car seat to protect the vehicle leather or upholstery.
- ◆ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for guidance on protecting vehicle seats.
- ◆ Some car seat manufacturers have approved the use of select seat pads, protectors, and/or towels.
- ◆ Contact the car seat manufacturer to see if they allow the use of products that did not come with their car seat.



Car Seat Expiration and Replacement Information

Car Seat Manufacturer's Expiration Date: Each car seat manufacturer determines the life span for their car seats. Most manufacturers suggest replacing a car seat at 6 years from the date of manufacture, although some car seats have a life span up to 10 years. Always read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions to determine the recommended life span of a car seat. Expiration dates are a way for car seat manufacturers to provide guidance on the expected "useful" life of their car seat. The car seat expiration date is based on the date of manufacture, not the date of purchase or use. 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. **Some child restraint manufacturers are placing expiration dates molded into the plastic shell 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.

Manufactured in / Fabriqué en (year-month-day) / (année-mois-jour)	2014-11-28
Name / Nom	Embrace 35
Model / Modèle	31511708
Made in / Fabriqué au	China
Expires on / Expire le	2020-11-27
Serial Number	31511708JFQB2800070

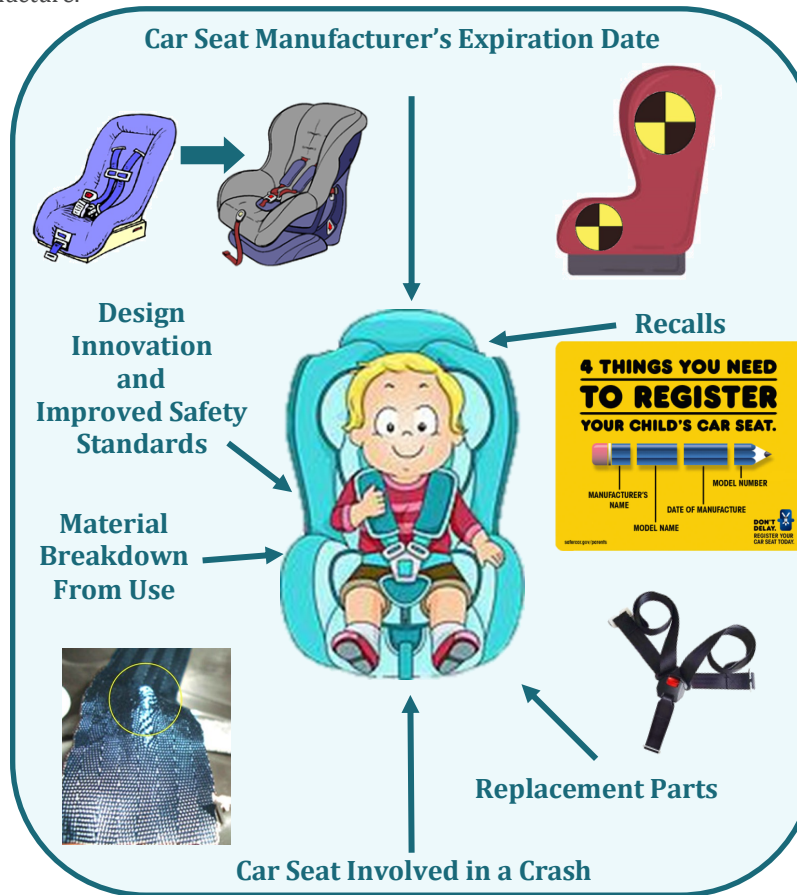
Design Innovation and Improved Safety Standards

Standards: A car seat that is passed down from friends and family may appear to be in great condition, but older car seats may not have newer lifesaving technologies and recently updated safety standards. For example, before 2002, car seats were not equipped with Lower Anchor and Tethers for Children (LATCH). Now they are a standard feature on car seats. Expiration dates ensure older car seats are removed from use and children are protected by car seats designed with current safety features and meet the most current standards.

Material Breakdown From Use: Car seats are often exposed to extreme temperatures in hot and cold cars. Over time, the car seat shell can develop hairline fractures from exposure to the heat and cold, and the harness webbing can become frayed from use. The car seat breakdown may not be visible, but the strength of the car seat can become compromised over time.



Car Seat Involved in a Crash: Always follow the car seat manufacturer's guidance about replacing a car seat if you are involved in a crash. The forces in a collision can sometimes cause unseen damage. This hidden damage may keep the car seat from properly protecting the child in future crashes. Some car seat manufacturers recommend that a car seat be replaced after a crash of any severity, even a minor crash. Some car seat manufacturers follow the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommendations.



Recalls: An older car seat may have been part of a recall, and you may not have been notified.

Register Your Car Seat for Recall and Safety Notices

Register car seats to ensure you will be notified about recalls and guided through the repair process. Car seats can be registered:

- ♦ Online at the car seat manufacturer's website, using the model number and manufacture date that is found on a sticker located on the back or bottom of the car seat.

OR

- ♦ By filling out the registration card that came with the car seat. The registration card has the car seat's information. Mail the card; no postage is required.

OR

- ♦ Online at www.safercar.gov/parents. Select "Car Seat & Booster Seats" and then "Registration". Complete and submit the online form.

Replacement Parts: As designs change, manufacturers may not maintain an inventory of older car seat parts. These parts may not be available beyond the expiration date.

NHTSA recommends that child safety seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash in order to ensure a continued high level of crash protection for child passengers. NHTSA does not recommend that a car seat be replaced following a minor crash.

Minor crashes are those that meet ALL of the following criteria:

- ♦ The vehicle was able to be driven away from the crash site.
- ♦ The vehicle door nearest the safety seat was undamaged.
- ♦ There were no injuries to any of the vehicle occupants.
- ♦ The air bags (if present) did not deploy.
- ♦ There is no visible damage to the safety seat.



SUMMARY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILD PASSENGER OCCUPANT PROTECTION LAWS

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

All drivers operating a passenger car, Class I and Class II truck, classic motor vehicle, antique motor vehicle or motor home shall securely fasten infants and children under 8 years of age in an approved child restraint/booster when the child is riding anywhere in the motor vehicle, including the cargo area. The car seat/booster seat may be in any seating position in the vehicle that is equipped with a seat belt. (However, for maximum protection, a back seat is preferable.)

All drivers transporting children under 4 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in an approved child passenger restraint system.

- ♦ **A child younger than two years of age shall be secured in a rear-facing child passenger restraint system, to be used until the child outgrows the maximum weight and height limits designated by the car seat manufacturer. (Primary Law)**
 - ♦ Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance with the Child Passenger Protection Law for children birth to age 4. 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.

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)

- ♦ Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance of the Child Passenger Protection Law for children age 4 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.

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. (Primary Law)

- ♦ 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.

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

Fines collected are placed in a fund and used to purchase car seats for loaner programs.

Civil immunity for child passenger safety technicians and lenders of car seats has been granted. No certified child passenger safety technician or organization acting in good faith, within the scope of the national standardized child passenger safety training, and without a fee or charge to the owner or operator of the vehicle, shall be liable for an act of omission that occurs in giving advice or assistance regarding the inspection, installation or adjustment of a car seat. No person or organization who lends child restraints shall be liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omission, except any act or omission intentionally designed to harm or any grossly negligent act or omission resulting in harm to another.

Hospitals are required to notify parents of the location of car seat loan programs in the community. It is recommended that hospitals also provide information on the Pennsylvania's Child Passenger Safety Occupant Protection law. Providing educational materials about the law and correct selection and use of car seats will assist families in keeping their children safe during travel.

Traveling Safely in Taxis and Paid Rideshare Services

More families are utilizing taxis and other paid ride services for appointments or vacation travel. These services are convenient and affordable. The following are things you should know about using a taxi or paid ride service when you are traveling with your children.

- ♦ First, there is a common myth that the Pennsylvania Child Passenger Safety Law excludes taxis or those similar ride services from requiring a car seat for children. Taxis or paid ride service vehicles are still considered a passenger car and are not exempt from the law.
- ♦ The Pennsylvania Child Passenger Safety law designates the driver as the responsible person to secure a child in a child restraint anywhere they sit in the vehicle.
- ♦ If the parent or caregiver does not provide the car seat and the taxi or ride service does not have one available, the child cannot legally or safely ride. Drivers are at risk of being cited for not using car seats. Not only can the driver be fined (\$75 plus costs) by law, but the safety of the child is at risk.



CPS Week Event Registration

September 15-21, 2019

Pennsylvania will be joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and other states in the nation celebrating **Child Passenger Safety Week** and **NHTSA's Annual "Seat Check Saturday"** on Saturday, September 21st. 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 register your event:

- ♦ **Online at www.pakidstravelsafe.org on the "2019 CPS Week" page**
- ♦ **By FAX at 484-446-3036, or**
- ♦ **By Email to aosterhuber@paaap.org.**

All registered events will be sent to PennDOT and NHTSA and posted on the PA TIPP and NHTSA websites. The events will also be shared 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 by October 5th. The data collection form can be completed online at www.pakidstravelsafe.org on the "2019 CPS Week" page or submitted by FAX or email. 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: _____

CPS WEEK EVENT(S)— Follow-Up Data Collection Form:

- ☐ Appointment Required
- ☐ Appointment & Walk-Ins ☐ Same as Event Contact
- ☐ Walk-Ins

To make an appointment:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

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**