

Child Safety Seat Tips and Recommendations

Fact: Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for American children.

Fact: All 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed mandatory child safety seat usage laws.

Child Safety Seat Tips:

- The back seat is generally the safest place for a child in the event of a crash.
- Infants should ride in rear facing seat with restraints, until age 1 or 20 pounds. Read your safety seat manual for instructions regarding weight and height limits.
- Children over age 1 and 20 pounds may ride facing forward.
- The harness should be adjusted so you can slip one finger underneath the straps at your child's chest. The clip goes at armpit level.
- Keep your child in a safety seat with a full harness as long as possible, until they weigh at least 40 pounds.
- A belt-positioning booster seat is recommended for children between 40 to 80 pounds. It is used with the adult lap and shoulder belt.

Parents are also reminded to:

- Avoid placing a child under age 12 in the front seat of a vehicle equipped with an air bag.
- Avoid using second-hand child safety restraints or restraints that have been involved in a crash.
- Always read carefully both the vehicle owner's manual and the seat manufacturer's instructions

Your local Fire or Police Department has a Child Seat Safety Technician that offers free car seat installations or checks.

National Highway and Safety Administration's "Transportation Safety Tips". NHTSA's web site:
<http://www.nhtsa.gov>