

Vehicle Safety and Children

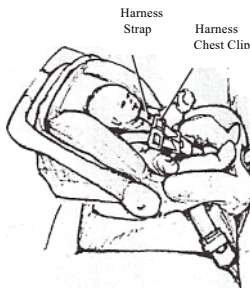
Injuries from motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death in children aged 5 to 14 years. Many children are injured as a result of being improperly restrained when they ride in cars, vans, or trucks. Children are safest riding in the backseat of a motor vehicle.

Children should never ride in the cargo bed of a pickup truck. Children seated in compact extended-cab pickup trucks are not as safe as children seated in other vehicles.

SAFETY SEAT CHECKLIST

All children aged 12 and younger should be properly restrained in the backseat. Buy the appropriate seat for your child's age group and read all information on the seat before purchasing. Read your vehicle's manual and follow instructions for child seat installation. Using only seat belts instead of approved safety or booster seats for children can cause serious or fatal injuries. Never ride with a child seated on a passenger's or driver's lap in the front or rear seats.

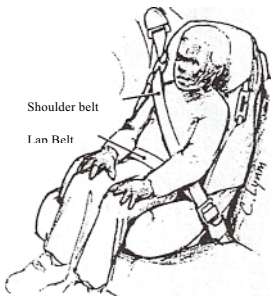
REAR-FACING SEAT



INFANTS FROM BIRTH UP TO 24 POUNDS should ride in the backseat facing away from the front seat in an appropriate car safety seat that is attached to the rear seat safety belt.

- Harness straps in the seat should be at or below the infant's shoulders and fit snugly without any loose areas.
- The harness chest clip should be placed at armpit level.
- An infant younger than 1 year who weighs more than 20 pounds should ride in a safety seat equipped for a heavier child, also facing rear

BOOSTER SEAT



CHILDREN 40 TO 80 POUNDS should ride in the backseat in a booster seat that uses the adult lap and shoulder belt.

- Belt-positioning boosters must be used with the shoulder belt snugly across the child's chest and the lap belt low across the child's thigh.
- Booster seats should be used until the child can sit back against the backseat with knees bent and feet touching the floor.

FORWARD-FACING SEAT



CHILDREN OLDER THAN 1 YEAR WEIGHING 20 TO 40 POUNDS may ride safely in a child seat strapped into the backseat and facing the front rest.

- The harness straps should be at or above the child's shoulders and should be snug.
- The harness chest clip should be at the child's armpit level.

For more information, contact:

American Academy of Pediatrics • 847-434-4000 • www.aap.org

National Safe Kids Campaign • 202-662-0600 • www.safekids.org

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration • 800-424-9393 (Auto Safety Hotline) • www.nhtsa.gov