



CHILD SAFETY SEATS



All children from birth through age 12 should be restrained in a federally approved car seat, booster seat and/or lap and shoulder belt. The middle of the back seat is the safest place for children! No child safety seat should ever be placed in front of a passenger side airbag.

General guidelines for child safety seats:

Birth to One Year and 20 pounds

Infants should ride in rear facing infant-only child seats from birth until they have reached both 20 pounds AND one year of age. To be size- appropriate, the baby's head should be one inch below the back of the seat.

Toddlers and Preschoolers/ 20- 40 pounds

Children who weigh more than 20 pounds AND who are older than one year should ride in forward- facing child safety seats until they are 40 pounds or 4 years old. These seats should be placed in the back seat of the car. Children may remain in these seats until the child's ears are no longer below the top of the safety seat back.

School- agers/ under 80 pounds

Children should ride in the back seat in belt positioning booster seats. Lap/ shoulder belts do not properly fit children until they reach 58 inches and weigh 80 pounds. Children under 8- 10 years usually do not meet these requirements. Lap and shoulder belts are designed to ride over bony areas of the shoulders and hips and may fatally injure a child in a crash if improperly restrained.

School-agers/ over 80 pounds

Older children may safely wear a lap and shoulder belt if their feet touch the floorboard while sitting up straight.