

4 Tips to Keep your Child Safe in the Car

Read the tips below to learn how you can keep your child safe.

Tip #1:

Make sure everyone is buckled up for safety.

Tip #2:

Always read the child safety seat instruction manual and your car owner's manual to ensure proper installation.

Tip #3:

Always mail back the product registration form to the manufacturer after you buy a new child safety seat so you are notified of recalls.

Tip #4:

Call the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Auto Safety Hotline (888) 327-4236 about recalls or safety notices on child safety seats.

Child Safety Seat Recommendations

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends these seats for different ages:

Age	Seat Type and Place
Birth to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rear-facing car seat, in back seat
1 to 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rear-facing car seat, until max weight or height limit is reached, in back seat• Forward-facing seat with harness, in back seat
4 to 7 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forward facing car seat with harness until height reached or weight limit by your car seat's manufacturer• Booster seat, in back seat.
8 to 12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Booster seat, in back seat• Seat belt, with lap belt fitting snugly across thighs (not across stomach)

**Los Angeles County,
Department of Public Health,
Injury and Violence Prevention Program (IVPP)**
Website:

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/IVPP



Child Passenger Safety

What you can do to keep your child safe in the car.



What is child passenger safety?

Child passenger safety is making sure your child is restrained in a safe way while riding in a car. That means being buckled up with a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is set up correctly, and is right for your child's size and age. For each child under age 16 who is not secured correctly, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$475 and get a point on their driving record.

Everyone in the car must be buckled up.

Who should ride in a car seat?

Every state has its own set of laws. In California:

- Infants aged birth to 12 months must be in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat.
- Children under 8 years of age must be correctly buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.



Who should ride in a booster seat?

A booster seat is a seat that “boosts,” or lifts, the child up so that a seat belt will fit across their lap correctly.

For a proper fit, the lap belt must ride low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt must cross the center of the chest. Booster seats must be used with a seat belt that has a lap and shoulder component, never with a lap belt only.

Who should wear a seat belt?

Seat belts are designed for adults and do not properly fit children. A seat belt that doesn't fit properly won't protect your child in a crash.

Age 8 or Older

Children age 8 or older, or who are 4'9" or taller, may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, with the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest.

Ages 13 and Older

All passengers (ages 13 and older) must wear a lap and shoulder belt when riding in the front seat. To keep your older child (age 13 and older) safe in the front seat:

- Move the seat as far back as possible from the dashboard.
- Teach your child not to lean forward to change the radio.
- Insist that your child sit upright against the seatback, with the seat belt snug at all times.

How do I know if my child is ready for a seat belt?

Use this simple 5-step test to decide if your child can safely ride in a seat belt alone.

5-Step Test:

1. Can the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
 Yes No
2. Do the child's knees bend naturally over the seat cushion edge?
 Yes No
3. Does the lap belt cross the top of the hips/thighs, not the tummy?
 Yes No
4. Is the shoulder belt centered on the shoulder and chest?
 Yes No
5. Can the child stay seated in this position the whole trip?
 Yes No

If you cannot answer “Yes” to all 5 steps above, your child must remain in a booster.