

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SEAT: CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TIPS

THERE ARE MANY CAR SEATS ON THE MARKET, BUT DO YOU KNOW HOW TO CHOOSE THE SEAT THAT BEST FITS YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS? SELECT A CAR SEAT BASED ON YOUR CHILD'S AGE AND SIZE, CHOOSE A SEAT THAT FITS IN YOUR VEHICLE, AND USE IT EVERY TIME.

BIRTH-12 MONTHS

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats.

- Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing.
- Convertible and All-in-one car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

4-7 YEARS

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer.

Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat but still in the back seat.

1-3 YEARS

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer.

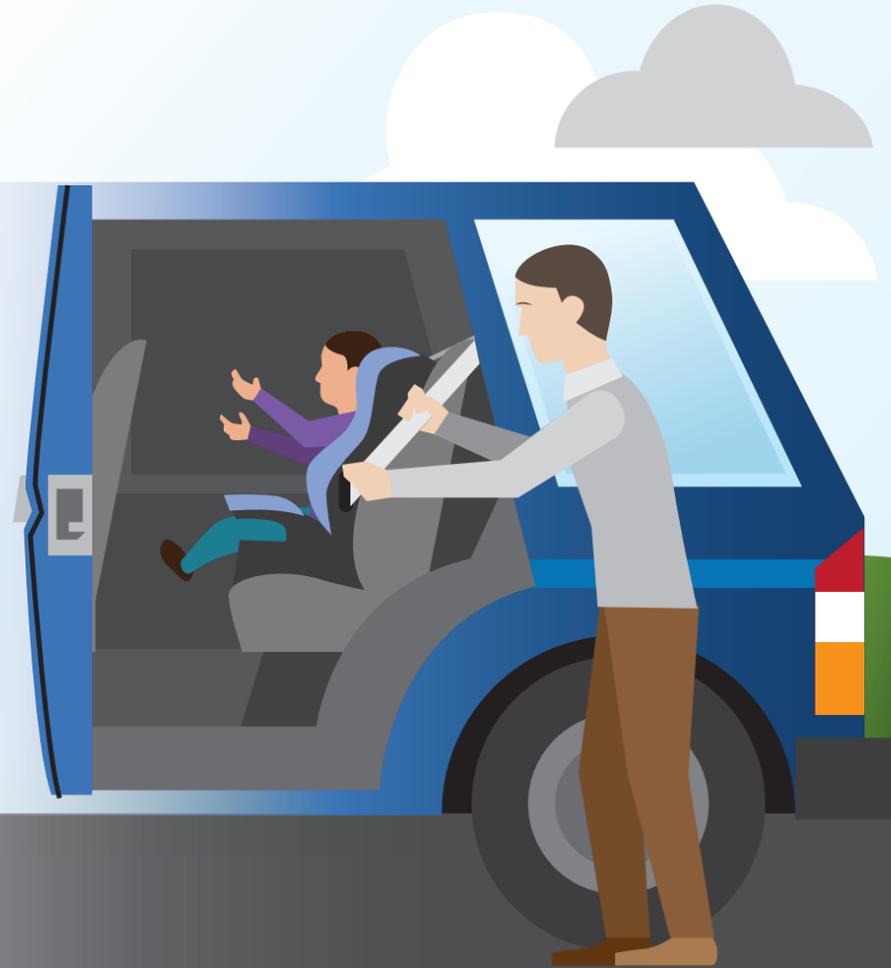
Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

8-12 YEARS

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face.

REMEMBER:

KEEP YOUR CHILD IN THE BACK SEAT AT LEAST THROUGH AGE 12.



DID YOU KNOW?



• In 2015 alone, 116,000 children under age 13 were injured as passengers in car crashes.

• In 2015, among children under the age of 5 in cars, an estimated 266 lives were saved by child restraints.



• In 2015, over one-third (35%) of children killed in car crashes were not in car seats, booster seats or seat belts.



• EVERY 33 SECONDS, ONE CHILD UNDER AGE 13 IS INVOLVED IN A CRASH.



• 3,194 children were killed in car crashes during a 5-year period (2011-2015). In addition, an estimated 599,000 children were injured.

• All 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws requiring children to be restrained while riding in cars.



Visit nhtsa.gov/therightseat
Register your car seats and booster seats.



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration

