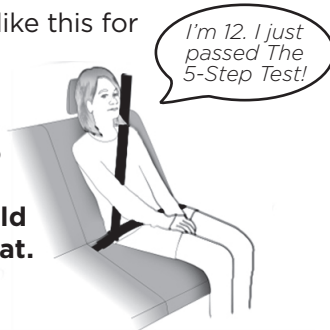


THE 5-STEP TEST

- 1 Does the child sit all the way back?
- 2 Do the child's knees bend at the edge of the seat?
- 3 Does the belt cross the child's shoulder?
- 4 Is the lap belt touching the tops of the child's legs?
- 5 Can the child sit like this for the whole trip?



If you answered no to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Are used car seats safe?

Never buy a car seat at a garage sale or thrift shop. Make sure the seat your child uses:

- is not too old (see expiration date on seat)
- has a sticker with model and date
- has not been recalled
- has all parts and instructions
- was never used in a crash

What if I cannot afford a safety seat?

If you shop carefully, you can buy a convertible seat (birth to 50 lbs. or more) for under \$100. Boosters cost even less.

If you don't have the money right now, find out if there is a low-cost car seat program in your area.

How can I keep my child buckled up?

Buckle up your baby from the very first ride and never let your child ride any other way. If a child gets out of the seat, stop at once and strap the child back in it. Stop often and have special soft toys to enjoy in the car.

CALIFORNIA LAWS

Requirements for parents and drivers:

- All children under 2 ride facing rear unless 40 inches or 40 lbs. or more.
- All children under age 16 must be buckled up properly in safety seat, booster, or safety belt. (In belt, lap belt crosses hips or thighs, shoulder belt crosses front of chest.)
- Children under age 8 must ride in a safety seat or booster in the back seat.
- Every person in the car must be buckled up correctly.
- Children 6 years or less may not be left alone in a car or with only a child under 12.
- No smoking if a child under 18 is in the car.

The ticket is \$500 or more and a point on the license!

If a safety seat is in use during a crash, the auto insurance company must pay to replace it.

NEED HELP?

We can help you keep your child safe.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

P.O. Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003
800/745-SAFE
www.carseat.org

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KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE



BUCKLE THEM UP RIGHT!

CHILDREN CAN BREAK!

You can protect your child by using a safety seat on every ride, starting with the first ride home from the hospital.

All children ride in the back seat.



WARNING: An air bag could kill a child in the front seat.

In a car crash or in a sudden stop, your child could be:

- thrown from your arms, around the car, or outside, if not buckled up right.
- crushed by someone who is not wearing a safety belt or hurt by loose objects in the car.

BUCKLING UP - IT'S THE SAFEST WAY!

- ✓ Child faces back of car until too tall or heavy (head is within 1 inch of the top of the safety seat or they reach the top weight of seat).
- ✓ Child's legs may be crossed or rest on seat back when facing backwards until age 2 or longer.
- ✓ Use a seat with harness as long as possible: straps at or below shoulders rear facing; at or above forward facing.
- ✓ Make the harness very snug. (If you can pinch a fold in the strap fabric, it is too loose.)
- ✓ Straps are on top of shoulders, not arm. Chest clip is at armpit level.
- ✓ Install the safety seat tightly in the car.
- ✓ Always use the top tether strap on forward-facing safety seats.

YOU CAN KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE!

- ✓ Read and follow the safety seat instructions exactly.
- ✓ Keep your child facing the back of the car from birth **until at least age 2 or longer.**
- ✓ Keep your child in a safety seat with a harness up to the height or weight limit - usually between 4 and 6 years old.
- ✓ The next step is a booster. Most children need one until 10 to 12 years old.
- ✓ The back seat is the safest part of the car. All children ride in the back.
- ✓ **Never** let your child ride with a driver who drinks or takes drugs and drives.

We all have our own place!



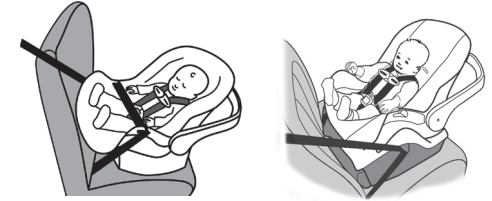
Everyone buckles up right!

FOUR TYPES OF CAR SEATS

The "best" car seat is the one that fits your child and fits in your car. Try before you buy! Then follow the instructions exactly.

Rear-facing-only safety seats

Most have a detachable base. Child must face back of car. Never put a rear-facing child in front of an air bag!



Convertible safety seats

Rear-facing or forward-facing. Child faces back of car until at least 2 years old. **Never** put a rear-facing child in front of an air bag! Attach the top tether strap when forward facing.



Combination safety seats

Not for babies or toddlers. They can be used forward facing only with a harness or as a booster seat. Use the harness so long as it fits.



Booster seats

For children who have outgrown seats with a harness. See **The 5-Step Test** (other side).

