

**Buckled up  
with  
Love**

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# 11 ways to keep your child safer in a car.

Motor vehicle crashes claim the lives of more than 12 children each week. To best protect your child, choose a safety seat that fits your vehicle, fits your child, and that you will use correctly every time.

- **Always read the vehicle owner's manual and the car seat instructions for correct installation information.**
- **Check your vehicle owner's manual** and tags on the safety belts when you purchase a car seat. Make sure your child's weight and height are within the limits of the car seat. If you buy a convertible seat, check the fit both rear- and forward-facing.
- **Do not buy a used seat** unless you can verify 1) it has not been in a crash; 2) the age of the seat and that it has not expired; and 3) it has not been recalled.
- **Infants and toddlers** need to ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible. Keep children rear-facing until they are at least two years old, or until they reach their seat's height or weight limits.
- **When your child outgrows** the rear-facing seat, he/she should ride in a forward-facing convertible or combination seat with a harness as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed in the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- **Make sure you use the top tether strap** if your car seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions allow it. When snug, top tethers reduce the distance your child's head travels in a crash and the risk of injury.
- **Children who exceed the limits** of the car seat harness are safest in a booster until the adult seat belts fit correctly, usually at 4'9" in height and between 8-12 years old.
- **Install the seat in back;** all children should ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old. Never install a car seat in front of an air bag.
- **Install your car seat snugly** enough so it moves less than one inch to the sides and toward the front of the vehicle.
- **Attend a car seat checkup** to be sure the seat is installed correctly and your child is safely secured. To learn more about car seat checks near you, visit [www.safekids.org/in-your-area/find-a-inspection-station/](http://www.safekids.org/in-your-area/find-a-inspection-station/).
- **Make sure you buckle up so your kids will too!**

**I'M SAFE!**