



CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKLIST

All children must use a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt.

- My child **always** rides in a back seat and **never** in front of an airbag.
- Everyone in my car buckles up on every ride using the correct car seat, booster seat or seat belt for each person's age and size.
- My child's car seat has all of its parts, labels and instructions and has never been in a crash.
- I follow the instructions for my car and my car seat so that my child is buckled in right and tight.
- My child's car seat has **never** been in a crash.
- I **never** leave my child alone in a car.
- My child **never** wears a thick winter coat while using car seat, booster seat, or seat belt.



Babies Under 2:

Rear-facing car seats in the back seat

- My child **always** rides in a back seat and never in front of an airbag.
- My child **always** rides in a car seat made for his or her size and age.
- My child sits facing the back of the car in their car seat.
- My child uses a bigger rear-facing car seat until they outgrow the harness. Many harnesses go to 35, 40, or 45 pounds.
- My child's car seat is tightly buckled in the car and doesn't move more than one inch when I pull it where the seatbelt is buckled/attached.
- The harness straps are snug on my child and I can't pinch the buckled strap at the shoulder.



Toddlers and Big Kids: forward-facing car seats with a top tether

- My child **always** rides in a car seat made for their size and age.
- The harness straps are snug on my child, and I can't pinch the buckled strap at the shoulder.
- My child's car seat is buckled tightly in the car and doesn't move more than one inch when I pull it at the belt path. I use the top tether.
- My child uses this car seat until they outgrow the harness. Many harnesses go to 50 pounds or more.



Older, bigger kids: booster seats with lap and shoulder seat belts

- My child **always** rides on a booster seat using a lap and shoulder belt.
- The lap belt **always** sits low on their hips, not on the stomach.
- The shoulder belt is on my child's shoulder – not on the neck, under the arm or behind the back.
- The seat belt is snug, flat and comfortable on my child.
- My child may be between 8–12 years of age before the seat belt fits without a booster.

Kids ready for seat belts

- My child **always** uses a lap and shoulder seat belt.
- The lap belt **always** sits low on my child's hips, not the stomach.
- The shoulder belt is on my child's shoulder – not on the neck, under the arm, or behind the back.
- My child's back is firmly against the vehicle seat back, their knees bend at the front edge of the vehicle seat, and they can sit this way for the whole ride.