



for your family

Keep Kids Safe in Crashes

25:B:16

Tips to Keep Your Child Safer While Driving

USE THE CORRECT CAR SEAT FOR YOUR CHILD'S AGE AND SIZE:



Convertible seat installed with LATCH

- All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing safety seat until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest height or weight allowed by the manufacturer of their child safety seat.
- All children 2 years or older, or those younger than 2 years who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their child safety seat, should use a forward-facing child safety seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of their child safety seat.
- All children whose weight and height are above the forward-facing limit for their child safety seat should use a belt-positioning booster until the vehicle lap-and-shoulder seat belt fits properly. This typically occurs when the child has reached 4 feet 9 inches tall and is between 8 and 12 years of age.
- When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use lap-and-shoulder seat belts for optimal protection.
- All children younger than 13 years of age should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.

BUYING A FAMILY CAR? HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- What type of and how many seat belts and car seats will you need?
- Will your car seats fit in the vehicle? Not all seats fit in all cars. Try them out before buying.
- Compact pickup trucks and sports cars are not safe family cars.
- Does the vehicle have safety features such as shoulder belts in the center rear seat, adjustable shoulder belts in the rear side seats and LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children)?



Rear seating for 11-year-old

CHOOSE A SAFE LOCATION IN YOUR VEHICLE

- Never put an infant in a rear-facing seat in front of an active air bag.
- Plan ahead. Always be sure that there is a seat belt for every child who rides in your car.
- If a child must ride in the front seat, move the vehicle seat as far back as it can go, away from the air bag. Be sure that the child riding in the front is in the correct restraint for her age and size.
- The safest place for all children 12 and younger is the back seat.



High-back booster

SEAT BELTS AND TETHER STRAPS ARE IMPORTANT

- Some rear center seats in cars have only a lap belt. You can use a lap belt alone to install a child safety seat, but never use it for a booster. Correct use of a booster seat requires a lap-and-shoulder seat belt.
- If your vehicle has LATCH, you can use it to install a car seat. LATCH attachment points are usually in rear side seats. Check your vehicle owner's manual for more information.
- Always attach the top tether strap when your child is riding in a forward-facing car seat.

www.chop.edu/carseat

www.chop.edu/childsafety

This page may be reproduced exclusively for not-for-profit patient education.