



CHOOSE CAR SEAT:
BY AGE & SIZE



IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

Find Answers to Car Seat Questions During Child Passenger Safety Week-September 15-21

The Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS), local health departments, law enforcement agencies and child safety advocates are joining together to promote the proper use of child safety seats during national Child Passenger Safety Week (September 15 - 21, 2013). The campaign's goal is to make sure all parents and caregivers are correctly securing all children in the right car restraint (rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat or seat belt) for their ages and sizes.

During CPS Week many communities throughout Utah will have certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians available to provide free, hands-on car seat education and inspections. The week concludes with National Seat Check Saturday on September 21, when certified CPS techs will be available at car seat events throughout Utah to offer advice and instruction.

For a list of events in Utah, visit clickitutah.org

The best protection

Research shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age 8 (NHTSA)

Car seats reduce the risk of infants (under 1 year old) being killed in cars by



Car seats reduce the risk of toddlers (1 to 4 years old) being killed in cars by



Failure to read the car seat manufacturer's instructions, in addition to vehicle owner's manual instructions regarding installation, could result in serious injury or death as the seat could be used improperly.



Correct installation is key

Car Seat Recommendations: Choosing the Right Seat

AGE (YEARS)													
Birth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13+
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT													
	FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT												
				BOOSTER SEAT									
								SEAT BELT					



Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 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.

A **rear-facing car seat** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.



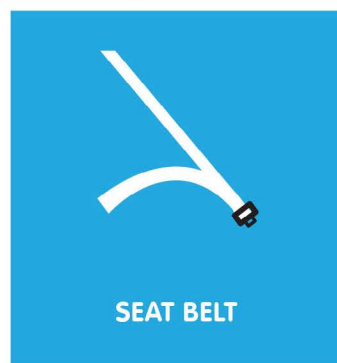
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child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

A **forward-facing car seat** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.



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

A **booster seat** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.



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 snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

A **seat belt** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

It's the Law



State law requires everyone in a vehicle to be secured by a seat belt. Children up to age 8 must be properly restrained in a child car seat or booster seat. The law provides for primary enforcement for individuals up to 19 years of age. For a person age 19 or older, enforcement by an officer can be only as a secondary action when the person has been detained for another offense.



Visit clickitutah.org for more information about choosing the right seat.

Utah Department of Public Safety
Highway Safety Office
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