

Correctly buckling a child in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt is the single most effective way to protect them and reduce fatalities in a crash.



State Senator

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Securing children in age and size appropriate car seats is the best way to keep children safe. Here are tips from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation on keeping kids safe.

Selection: Choose a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt based on the child's age, height, weight, and developmental level.

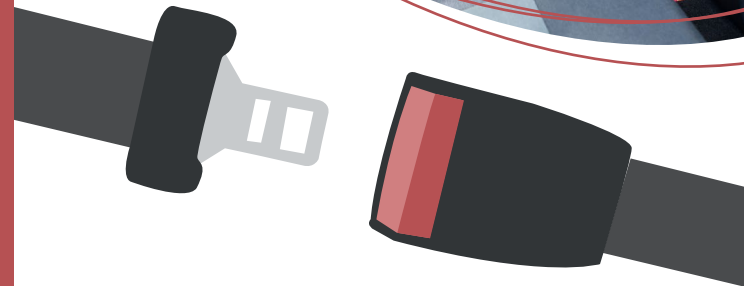
Direction: Children should remain rear-facing as long as possible, until they reach the top height or weight limits allowed by the manufacturer.

Location: Select a seating position with seat belts that can be locked or approved for LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) to secure the car seat. Children should remain in a back seat through age 12.

Installation: Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions and vehicle manual for guidance on correctly installing and using the car seat, booster seat, and seat belt.

Harnessing: Place the harness through the correct slots and secure the child snugly with the harness retainer clip at armpit level. You should NOT be able to pinch excess webbing at the shoulder or hips once the harness is buckled.

Protect Your Child Make Sure They Are Buckled Up **Safely**



**Provided by:
State Senator
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Follow these directions to keep vehicle occupants safely buckled.

READ AND FOLLOW BOTH THE CAR SEAT AND VEHICLE OWNER'S MANUALS TO LEARN HOW TO INSTALL AND CORRECTLY USE A CAR SEAT.

Labels on car seats provide important information:

- Basic instructions for correct installation and use
- Name, address, and contact information of manufacture
- Model Number and Manufacture Date
- Expiration Date

Infants must ride rear-facing until two years of age or until the maximum weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

Many convertible car seats are approved for rear-facing use up to 40 pounds and should be considered for children who have exceeded the limits of a rear-facing only car seat.

NEVER place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger-side front air bag. A rear-facing car seat may be used in a front seat only when there is an air bag on/off switch when the switch is in the OFF position.

Children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat. Older children can ride in the front seat with an active passenger-side front air bag only when no other back seat position is available and properly secured. Always:

- Push the vehicle seat back as far as possible.
- Use the car seat harness or seat belt according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Let's Keep Our Kids Safe!

Children who have outgrown the rear-facing car seat should be secured in a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

Place the car seat harness through the correct slots:

- at or below the shoulders for rear-facing.
- at or above the shoulders for forward-facing in a reinforced slot.

Place the vehicle seat belt through the correct belt path following the car seat manufacturer instructions. Seat Belt: Place the vehicle seat belt through the correct belt path following the car seat manufacturer instructions.

Tighten and LOCK the vehicle seat belt according to directions found in the vehicle owner's manual.

Check for tightness at the seat belt path. The car seat should NOT move more than one inch when pulled side-to-side or front-to-back at the belt path.

Children who have outgrown their forward-facing car seat should be properly secured in a booster seat until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fits correctly, at approximately 4'9" and between 8 and 12 years of age.

When in doubt, **don't guess** – Read instructions and/or call for technical assistance: TIPP: 1-800-CAR BELT or www.pakidstravelsafe.org NHTSA: 1-888-dash2dot or www.nhtsa.dot.gov www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm

