



## Motor Vehicle Safety Tips

### Every child should be Injury Free!

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children between 1 and 3 years of age. By choosing the appropriate child safety seat based on the age and size the child, many of those deaths could have been prevented.

### Car Seats

Review the [Ultimate Car Seat Guide](#) for guidance on selecting the appropriate car seat for your child.

- Every child must be in a car seat appropriate for their age, height, weight, and developmental need.
- Children 13 years of age and under should travel in the back seat and be appropriately restrained.
- All Infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat. Always refer to your car seat owner's manual for overall information about your car seat.
- All children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car seat should use a forward-facing car seats with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat manufacturer. Always refer to your car seat owner's manual for overall information about your car seat.
- All children whose weight or height is above the forward facing limit of their car seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat. The child should continue to use a booster seat until the child meets the maximum weight or height allowed by the booster seat manufacturer or until the vehicle lap and shoulder seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4' 9" in height and are between 8-12 yrs. 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.
- The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) has the most up to date information on car seat safety and reviews.

Reference: <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/5/e20182460/38530/Child-Passenger-Safety>

### Pedestrian Safety

Talk to your child about how to cross the street safely.

Review the [Walking Safely Tips](#) at SafeKids.org.

- Look, Listen, be aware of your surroundings.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- Cross at the corner unless there is some obstruction that exists.
- Stay on sidewalks or paths
- Put phones, headphones, and devices down when crossing the street.

