

Car Seat Recommendations for Children

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.

Birth - 12 months

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car 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.

1 - 3 years

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.

4 - 7 years

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.

8 - 12 years

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.

For more information contact: Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office • 2930 Wanamaker Drive, Suite 100 • Topeka, KS 66614 • Telephone: 1-800-416-2522 • E-mail: KTSRO@dcca.org • www.ktsro.org

KANSAS Traffic Safety
Resource OFFICE



- Read and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for your child's safety seat.
- Make sure the safety seat is secured correctly and tightly to the vehicle's seat. For a seat to be effective, it must be used properly.
- Do not place a rear-facing infant seat in an airbag-equipped seating position. The safest position for safety seats is always in the middle of the backseat. If a forward-facing child safety seat is placed in an airbag-equipped seating position, slide the vehicle seat as far back as possible.
- Three out of four car seats are improperly installed. To find a car seat inspection station, go to: KansasCarSeatCheck.org.

It's the law!

Child Passenger Safety Act (KSA 8-1343)

- This law requires all children under age 4 to be in a federally approved child safety seat.
- Children ages 4 to 8 must be in a federally approved child safety seat **OR** booster seat **UNLESS** the child weighs more than 80 lbs. **OR** is taller than 4'9".
- Children 8 years of age but under the age of 14 must be protected by a safety belt.
- This law applies to all passenger cars designed for carrying 10 passengers or fewer, as defined by KSA 8-1343a. The fine is \$60 plus court costs.
- Persons under age 14 are prohibited from riding in any portion of the vehicle not intended for passengers, as defined by KSA 8-1578a; this includes riding in the back of pickup trucks. The fine for this violation is \$60 plus court costs.

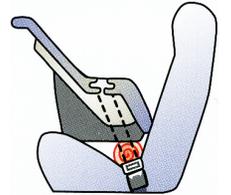
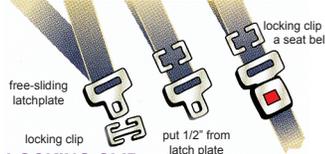
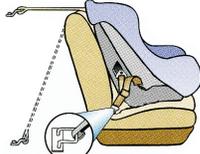
Safety Belt Use Act (KSA 8-2501)

- Primary Enforcement:** Occupants of a passenger car* 14 years of age but younger than 18 years of age can be cited for this violation-KSA 8-2503. The fine is \$60, including court costs.
- Front-seat occupants of a passenger car* 18 years and older can be cited for a seat belt violation. The fine is \$10, including court costs.
- Secondary Enforcement:** Second and third-row occupants of a passenger car* 18 years and older can be cited for a seat belt violation only after another citation is issued, such as a front-seat primary seat belt violation (KSA 8-2501). The fine is \$10, including court costs.

Commercial Seat Belt DOT 49 CFR 392.16

- A commercial motor vehicle which has a seat belt assembly installed at the driver's seat shall not be driven unless the driver has properly restrained himself/herself with the seat belt assembly. Fine: \$500 plus court cost.

*This law applies to all passenger cars carrying 10 passengers or fewer as defined by KSA 8-2502.

 <p>HARNESSES FIT: Tighten straps snug enough so you can't pinch any slack.</p>	 <p>REAR-FACING SEAT: Seat must be reclined at proper angle. Check car seat instruction book for angle recommendation. The base of the seat needs to look like it is sitting flat on a table top. Use towel or foam noodle to maintain position.</p>	 <p>LOCKING CLIP: Check child restraint or vehicle owner's manual for correct usage instructions.</p>
<p>RETAINER CLIP: Adjust to be level with armpits.</p>		<p>LATCH: Lower Anchors & Tethers for Children Attach car seat to anchors in bite of vehicle seat and tether to anchor positions designated in vehicle owners manual.</p> 
<p>All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat. Lap belt MUST fit across upper thighs and shoulder belt MUST fit across center of chest.</p>		