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SMART STEPS TO SAFE PASSENGERS



Most car seats are not used correctly, even though most parents believe they are using the seats the right way. Does your child have the best protection in a crash? Review these guidelines to find out.

THE BEST SAFETY SEAT

- The best protection for your child requires a coordinated effort—using a safety seat that fits your vehicle, fits your child, and that you will use correctly every time.
- Second-hand or old safety seats may not be as safe. **Read the manufacturer's instructions** and check for an expiration date. Carefully inspect seats that are more than five years old. Destroy seats that are more than ten years old. Do not purchase a used seat. Contact a CPS Technician or Fitting Station to learn about safety seat programs in your area (see www.nhtsa.dot.gov).

FITTING YOUR CHILD

- **Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions.**
- For babies, the safest seat is a rear-facing, semi-reclined seat (no more than 45°) until the child is at least one-year old AND weighs 20-22 lbs. Keeping a child rear-facing up to 30-35 lbs. is highly recommended if your child's safety seat instructions allow it.
- Children can ride in a forward-facing seat after one year and 20-22 lbs., and up to 40-80 lbs. (depending on the model).
- Children who exceed the limits of forward-facing seats (40-80 lbs.) are safest in a booster seat, until they are 4'9" tall and vehicle's safety belts fit correctly (usually between 8-12 years old).

FITTING YOUR VEHICLE

- **Check your vehicle owner's manual and any tags on the safety belts in your car before purchasing a car safety seat.**
- Keep your receipt. You can check the fit of the safety seat in the parking lot and return it for another one if the fit isn't right. If you buy a

convertible seat, check the fit both rear- and forward-facing.

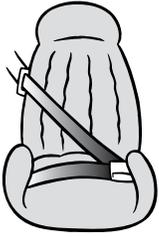
- The rear seats are the safest place for children. Never install a safety seat in front of an air bag.
- Install your rear- or forward-facing car seat snugly enough so it moves less than 1 inch to the sides and toward the front of the vehicle when you pull on it. **Read the safety seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual for correct installation information.**
- There are many different types of safety belt systems. The system in your vehicle may require a locking clip or a belt-shortening clip to secure the safety seat. **Check the vehicle manufacturer's instructions or contact a CPS Technician for more information.**

A CAR IS NOT A PLAYGROUND

- Teach children not to play in or around a parked car. A vehicle is not a place to hide.
- Keep your vehicles locked. Make sure your children do not have access to your keys.
- Never leave children unsupervised in or around a vehicle, even for a quick errand. See www.kidsncars.org.

For more information,
contact
Clarkstown Police Department
20 Maple Avenue
New City, NY 10956
(845) 639-5800





WHICH SAFETY SEAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

I am ____ years old. I weigh _____ pounds.
I am ____ feet tall. The best seat for me is

_____.

1.



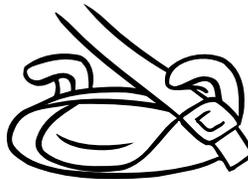
A rear-facing infant seat*

2.



A forward-facing safety seat*

3.



A booster seat*



Buckle up, snug and tight, in the seat that fits just right.

Note to parents:

1. A rear-facing infant seat or rear-facing convertible seat is safest for babies until they are at least one-year old AND weigh at least 20 lbs.

Keeping a child rear-facing up to 30-35 lbs. is highly recommended if your child's safety seat instructions allow it.

2. After one year and 20 lbs., and up to 40-80 lbs. (depending on the model), children can ride in a forward facing seat.

3. Children who exceed the limits of forward-facing seats (40-80 lbs.) are safest in a booster seat until they are 4'9" and the vehicle's safety belts fit correctly (usually between 8-12 years old).

***With any safety seat, it is very important to follow the manufacturer's instructions.**

