

Buckle up, baby!



6

cool tips for using infant and toddler safety seats correctly



Did you know nine out of 10 child safety seats are not used correctly

1

A safety seat should be secured tight enough so it does not move forward or side to side more than an inch. Use your knee to press the seat tightly into the vehicle's seat cushion. Next, buckle the belt, tighten and lock it by giving the strap a firm tug and releasing it. Make sure to use a belt-locking clip if your vehicle's manufacturer recommends one.

Make sure the safety seat's harness straps are threaded through the correct slots in the back of the seat. For infants riding in rear-facing seats, thread straps at or below shoulder level (A). For most toddlers, straps on front-facing seats should be threaded in the top slots at or above the shoulders (B).

Always



Here are **six tips to help keep your child safe:**

3
Take the time to lower the handle of an infant safety seat — never leave it upright while the car is in motion. This allows the seat to provide the proper protection for the infant.

Always recline a rear-facing safety seat at a 45-degree angle. If a child sits too upright, the head flops forward and the airway could be cut off. If needed, place a rolled-up towel under the front of the safety seat, between the safety seat and the car's seat cushion.

4

Read and follow the manufacturer's directions for your vehicle and your safety seat.



5

Harness straps must be tight enough to hold the child in the safety seat in case of a crash. To test them, slip a finger under one of the chest straps and try to pull it away from the child. It should stay close to the body.

An infant younger than 1 year and less than 20 pounds should ride in a rear-facing safety seat. A child older than 1 year and between 20 and 40 pounds should use a forward-facing safety seat. A child between 40 and 80 pounds should sit in a booster seat.

6

LESS THAN
20 POUNDS

20-40 POUNDS



remember, a vehicle's **back seat is the safest place** for kids to ride.

it's the law

Children under 1 year of age and less than 20 pounds **MUST** be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system installed according to the manufacturer's directions.

Children from 1 up to 6 years of age **MUST** be secured in a child restraint system (either a child safety seat or booster seat—**NOT** an adult seat belt) installed according to the manufacturer's directions.

Children from 6 up to 11 years of age **MUST** be secured in a booster seat installed according to the manufacturer's directions or by a safety belt.

Violation of the Iowa Child Restraint Law is a misdemeanor!

Exemptions:

Children **CERTIFIED** by a physician as having a medical, physical or mental disability making restraint use inadvisable

Children on a bus, including a school bus with no seat belts installed

Children riding on motorcycles

Children riding in vehicles manufactured before 1966

Children being transported in authorized emergency vehicles

Children transported by peace officers on official duty

Children riding in motor homes **EXCEPT** if riding in the front passenger seat



www.iowagtsb.org

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



3 1723 02097 8813