

# Car Seat Safety

**C**ar collisions are one of the leading causes of injury and death amongst children in the United States. The severity of injuries happens when children are not riding in the appropriate car seat according to their age or size. Proper installation can help reduce injuries and death of children.

## BIRTH TO 2 YEARS

- **PA Law requires all children 2 years of age to ride rear-facing**
- If your child outgrows the weight and height limits of their seat, choose the next appropriate seat to keep him/her rear-facing

## 2 TO 3 YEARS

- Child should remain rear-facing for as long as possible
- When the child outgrows his/her rear-facing seat; place forward-facing with a harness

## 4 TO 6 YEARS

- Children should remain forward-facing with harness for as long as possible
- Place your child in a forward-facing or combination seat without harness according to the manufacturer weight limits
- If your child outgrows his/her forward-facing or combination seat without harness, place in a booster seat.

## 6 TO 8 YEARS

- Place your child in high back booster or forward-facing seat according to manufacturer's recommendations
- Booster seats should be used when your child has reached the weight limit, but has not reached the height requirement of 4'9"
- **PA law requires at least a booster seat until the child reach ages 8, 80lbs, and 4 feet 9 inches**
- Children must remain sitting in the back seat

## 9 TO 12 YEARS

- Continue using a booster seat until your child can pass the Seat Belt Test
  1. Shoulder seat belt fits across the shoulder and chest snugged
  2. Lap seat belt fits across the lap (child's hips and upper thighs) snugged
  3. Child's feet touch the car floor, knees bend over the vehicle seat, and back is against the car seat
- All children 13 and under must ride in the back seat



**St. Christopher's  
Hospital for Children**

To learn if you have chosen the proper car seat and how to install, please contact a car seat technician at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Injury Prevention Coordinator  
**215-427-4880**

## CAR SEAT FACTS:

- **It is never safe to place your child on your lap while driving**
- **Car seats expire**
- **The proper car seat or booster seat could potentially be a lifesaver**
- **You could be fined up to \$204 if child is not properly secured in car**
- **Always refer to the Manufacturer Guideline**



**Infant Seat,  
Rear-facing only**



**Rear-facing and  
Forward-facing**



**Forward-facing  
Combination**



**High Back  
Booster Seat**



**Booster Seat**

Looking for a physician? [Click here](#) or call 844-734-3676.