

DON'T SKIP A STEP

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

- ▶ Safety seats must meet federal motor vehicle standards and be installed properly to prevent injuries.
- ▶ Read the manufacturer instructions and the motor vehicle owner's manual to ensure the safety seat is being used and is installed correctly.
- ▶ Follow instructions carefully.
- ▶ Check the instruction manual for the weight and height restrictions for each child safety seat.

COMMON CAR SEAT SAFETY ERRORS

- ▶ Turning a child from a rear-facing safety seat to a forward-facing safety seat too soon.
- ▶ Safety seat is not secured tight enough — should not shift more than one inch side to side or out from the seat at the belt path.
- ▶ Harness on the child is not tight enough — if you can pinch harness material, it's too loose.
- ▶ Retainer clip is up too high or too low — should be at the child's armpit level.
- ▶ The child is in the wrong safety seat — don't rush your child into a seat belt.
- ▶ Use either latch or a seat belt to secure an infant, convertible or forward facing seat, but not both together.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

- ▶ In a crash, unbelted passengers can slam into and injure other occupants — make sure everyone buckles up, every seat, every ride.
- ▶ Wear lap belts low and snug across the hips; shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back — not only is this unsafe, it is illegal!

AIRBAGS AND SEAT BELTS

- ▶ Airbags are designed to work with seat belts to keep vehicle occupants in a safe position during a crash — airbags are not effective when the vehicle occupant is not belted.
- ▶ Drivers should be a minimum of 10 inches from the steering wheel.
- ▶ Rear-facing seats should be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. If a car seat must be used in the front seat, air bags must be turned off. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.

PREGNANCY AND SEAT BELTS

- ▶ Pregnant women should wear the lap belt under the stomach, as low on the hips as possible and against the upper thighs.
- ▶ The shoulder belt should rest between the breasts.
- ▶ Make sure the straps fit snugly.

BUCKLE UP & OBEY THE LAW

NEW YORK SEAT BELT LAW

The driver and front seat passenger must be restrained with a seat belt. All back seat passengers under age 16y must be either in a certified child safety seat or a seat belt.



NEW YORK CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY AND BOOSTER SEAT LAW

- ▶ All children up to their 8th birthday must be properly restrained in a certified child safety seat.
- ▶ It is recommended to keep a child in a booster based on their height, rather than their age.
- ▶ Fines – A driver is held responsible for properly restraining child passengers under the age of 16y and can be fined a minimum of \$25 up to a maximum of \$100. The driver will also receive **3 points on their driving record!**

NEW YORK'S 4 STEPS



A GUIDE FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SEATS AND SEAT BELTS



Funded in part by NHTSA with a grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

More information & Videos:
<http://www.safeny.ny.gov/CPS/cps-resources.htm>

DON'T SKIP A STEP: FOUR OUT OF FIVE CAR SEATS ARE USED INCORRECTLY.



REAR-FACING SEAT

- ▶ Types of rear-facing seats – infant only, convertible or 3 in 1.
- ▶ The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends keeping children rear-facing at least until age 2y.
- ▶ Children may stay rear-facing longer in convertible car seats based on the seat's weight limits.

Always install rear-facing safety seats in the reclined position (45 degree angle) and per car seat manufacturer instructions. Keep the harness straps snug and at or below the shoulders.

Rear-facing seats should be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. If a car seat must be used in the front seat, air bags must be turned off. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.



FORWARD-FACING SEAT (WITH A HARNESS)

- ▶ Types of forward facing seats with a harness are a convertible or a combination seat.
- ▶ For children who have outgrown a rear-facing seat: Children should use a forward-facing harnessed seat until they outgrow the weight limit (typically 40-80 pounds, depending on the car seat manufacturer instructions).

Place forward-facing seat in the upright position.

Move the harness straps to the proper reinforced slots at or above the shoulders and keep the straps snug.

Check the manufacturer instructions for exact positioning.



BOOSTER SEAT

- ▶ Children must use a booster seat after they outgrow a forward-facing harnessed seat and remain in a booster until they fit into an adult seat belt.

Both low back and high back booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt. Booster seats keep the lap belt positioned properly around a child's hips and the shoulder belt in the correct position.

Some booster seats have a high back and some come with no back. Booster seats without a back must only be positioned in vehicles that have a head rest.



ADULT SEAT BELT

Your child is ready for an adult seat belt when they can sit with their back against the vehicle seat back, and knees bent over the vehicle seat edge without slouching. The belt should cross the shoulder (not the neck), and the thighs (not the abdomen). This is usually around 4'9".