

# Car Seat Recommendations for Children

## “Best Practice” for Safer Travel

*Children should ride properly restrained on **every trip** in every type of transportation.*

- Infants and toddlers under 2 years of age should ride in a rear facing car seat.
- Toddlers should ride in a forward-facing car seat only after they outgrow the rear facing limits on the car seat.
- Older children should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat after they outgrow the harness on the car seat.
- All children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old.
- All passengers should be safely restrained in a lap and shoulder safety belt.

*Parents often look forward to transitioning from one stage to the next, but these transitions should generally be delayed until they are necessary - when the child outgrows the limits for their current stage.*

## Additional Safety Tips

**Rear Facing:** Never place a rear facing child in front of an active frontal air bag.

**Forward Facing:** Use the top tether when the anchor is available or have an anchor installed.

**Booster:** Have your older child use a booster seat until the lap and shoulder belt fit properly – even if age 8 or older or taller than 4’9” in height.

**Attend** a check-up event or meet with a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician to make sure children are riding safely. Call or visit [www.childsafetyseat.org](http://www.childsafetyseat.org) for a calendar of check-up events.

**Refer** to the child safety seat manufacturer’s manual and the car seat information in your vehicle owner’s manual for specific details.



## When is my child ready to ride in a safety belt?

1. Is the child tall enough to sit with their back against the vehicle seat back?
2. Do the child’s knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder over the collarbone?
4. Is the lap belt low, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the entire trip?

**A “No” answer means the child should continue riding in a booster seat for best protection.**

## Oregon Occupant Protection Laws

**Child Restraints:** Child passengers must be restrained in approved child safety seats until they weigh 40 pounds or reach the upper weight limit for the car seat in use. Infants must ride rear facing until they reach two years of age.

**Booster Seats:** Children over 40 pounds **and** who have reached the upper weight limit of their car seat’s harness system, must use a booster seat until they are 4’9” tall **and** age 8.

**Safety Belts:** A child taller than 4’9” **and** age 8 or older must be properly secured with the vehicle’s safety belt. The child is properly secured if the lap belt is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck.

*Failure to properly use safety belts or child restraints is a Class D traffic violation with a \$110.00 fine.*

*(ORS 811.210 and ORS 815.055, effective January 1, 2012.)*