

Basics for Car Seat Safety

1. **Newborn infants must ride reclined at 45 degrees** to keep baby's head from dropping forward.
2. **Forward-facing children should ride in upright position.** This allows the harness system to restrain the body most effectively.
3. **Harness slot positions:**
 - Rear-facing position uses lowest slots. Straps should be at or below infant's shoulders.
 - Forward-facing position uses top slots at or above child's shoulders.
 - When harness straps are moved or replaced after cleaning, be sure they are correctly placed and the harness adjuster is secured.
4. **Adjust harness for a snug fit.** Check harness adjustment frequently. Change length as child grows. Adjust snugly for thinner/thicker outer clothes. Adjust to fit child snugly without being too tight (should be able to slip only one finger under harness at chest).
5. **Retainer clip holds straps on shoulders.** Place at armpit height.
6. **Car Seat should be installed tightly enough so it does not move more than one inch at belt path.**

Sponsored by:

WI DOT, Clark County Health Department, and Memorial Medical Center

To have your car seat checked for **FREE** by a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician or other questions, please contact one of the following:

Clark County Health Department
715.743.5105

Memorial Medical Center
715.743.8423

Eligibility requirements to receive a new car seat:

Must be a Clark County Resident **AND** income eligible, enrolled in at least one of the following programs:

- *WIC
- *Medicaid/BadgerCare
- *FoodShare
- *Head Start

Suggested Cost:

\$20 for Infant, Convertible, or Forward Facing/Booster Combo

\$10 for High Back Booster Seat

\$5 for Low Back Booster Seat

Car Seats for Kids



CLARK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Law

	Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-7 yrs	8-18 yrs
Less than 20 lbs	Rear-facing car seat			
21-40 lbs	Rear-facing car seat	Rear or Front-facing car seat		
41-80 lbs Under 4' 9"		Front-facing car seat	Front-facing car seat or Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt	Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt or seat belt
80+ lbs			Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt or seat belt	

For info: 866-511-9467 or www.wcpsa.com

Safest Practice



Birth - 12 months

Always ride in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat.

**American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until they reach the highest height or weight allowed by the car seat manufacturer.*



*Age 1 - 3 years

Rear-facing in back seat, as long as possible, within the height or weight limit allowed by car seat manufacturer. Then front-facing car seat in back seat.



Age 4 - 7 years

Front-facing car seat used within the height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Then a booster seat using lap and shoulder seat belt in the back seat.



Age 8 - 12 years

Booster seat until seat belt fits properly with lap belt snug across the upper thighs, not the stomach and shoulder belt snug across the chest, not across the neck/face. Keep children in the back seat until age 13.

Description of Restraint Types



A **REAR-FACING CAR SEAT** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.



A **FRONT-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.



A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belts so they fit properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.



A **SEAT BELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain your child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

Car Seat Recommendations

Every transition decreases protection. Delay transition to the next step as long as possible.

- Choose a car seat based on your child's size (height and weight)
- Read your car seat instructions for use and installation information
- Read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system
- Keep your child in a harness as long as your child fits within the height and weight limits
- Keep your child in the back seat until age 13 for best protection
- Check the expiration date and know history of your car seat