

Childcare Transportation Safety

Motor vehicle crashes are the number 1 killer of children over the age of 1 in Kentucky and the United States. Correct use of car seats and booster seats saves lives. How a child is transported to/from child care matters. To have the best opportunity for brain development, you must have an intact brain! To be safe in a crash, the child must be properly attached to the seat and the seat attached to the vehicle. Take the time to read the car seat direction and vehicle owner's manual. Once the seat is installed with the seat belt or lower anchors, it should not move an inch side to side or front to back. Never place a rear facing car seat in front of an active frontal airbag. Information provided here is considered best practice.

Important Points to Remember:

Buckle children and yourself up on every ride!

Use the correct seat for the child's age and size, facing in the right direction.

For maximum safety, wait on transitions until child has outgrown current step.

Keep child rear-facing for as long as possible for maximal head/neck safety.

Keep the child in a car seat with a harness for as long as possible (like a race car driver), but not beyond allowed weight.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendations for Child Passenger Safety (2011)

<u>Age</u>	<u>Type of Seat</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>
Infants/Toddlers (0-2 years)	Infant seats, rear-facing convertible seats	All infants and toddlers should ride in a Rear-Facing Car Safety Seat until they are two (2) years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the child safety seat manufacturer. Rear-facing helps protect the child's head and spine.
Toddlers/Preschoolers (Start: age 2: Move up: 4-6 years, depending on the size of child)	Convertible seats and forward-facing seats with harnesses	All children 2 years or older, or those younger than 2 years who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car safety seat, should use a Forward Facing Car Safety Seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer.
School-aged Children (4-12 years)	Booster seats	All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a Belt Positioning Booster Seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4'9" in height. The purpose of a booster is to boost a child so that an adult seatbelt will fit properly. This likely will not occur until children are between 8 and 12 years of age.
Older children (Above 4'9")	Seat belts	When children are tall enough (4'9") to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use both the Lap and Shoulder Belts for optimal protection. Never put shoulder belts behind the arm. All children younger than 13 should sit in the Rear Seats of vehicles for optimal protection.



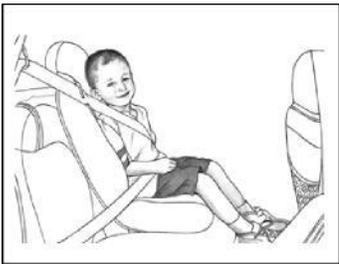
Rear-facing birth to 2 years

There are two types of rear-facing seats: infant-only for babies up to 22 pounds and convertible seats designed to be used rear-facing for 5-35 pounds and forward facing for children who weigh up to 40 pounds. Transition the child from a rear-facing infant seat to rear-facing in a convertible seat and remain there until the child reaches 24 months



Forward-facing seat for toddlers and preschoolers

Use a forward-facing seat with a 5 point harness to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer. A correctly placed 5 point harness contacts the strongest parts of the body- the shoulders and the hips. The harness clip should be placed at the armpit level. Harness straps should be snug.



Booster seats are next step- 8-12 years of age or 4'9" tall.

Source for pictures AAP Healthy Children website (www.healthychildren.org)

Helpful Resources/Community Partners

You need to know the basics, but don't need to be an expert. Find/partner with a nationally certified **Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPS technician)** in your community or region for technical assistance to childcare staff and parents. To find a CPS technician (and to learn how to become a CPS technician), see <http://cert.safekids.org> .

Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards. 2011. Child Passenger Safety: Chapter 6/Section 6.5 (<http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/index.html>) - how to run a child care transportation program.

American Academy of Pediatrics (www.aap.org)- car seat information for parents, updated yearly.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, "Car Seat Safety for Kids" (www.chop.edu/carseat) - see videos especially.

Safe Kids (www.safekids.org)- in Spanish and English for parents.

National Highway Transportation Safety Association (NHTSA); (<http://www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm>).

Safe Ride News (www.saferidenews.com)- excellent English/Spanish CPS handouts for parents and professionals, updated yearly.

Child Safety Solutions (www.imsafe.com)- child-friendly resource materials for injury prevention awareness and education, including a life-sized display showing proper child-height requirements for booster seats.

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Kentucky State Safe Kids, a program of DPH/MCH, led by KIPRC.