

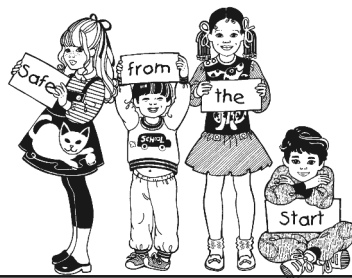
- Children should use a booster seat until they meet the safety belt fit test criteria. They may need to use a booster seat longer in some vehicles than others.

To fit a seat belt safely, the following criteria needs to be met:

- Child sits with back against the vehicle seat back.
- The knees are bent at the edge of the seat.
- The child's feet are on the floor.
- The shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest and not on the neck.
- The lap belt fits low across the hips and not up on the soft stomach area.
- Most children meet the above noted criteria, when they are around 4'9" tall and weigh 80-100#.
- Booster seats are not installed tightly. They are to be placed between the child and the vehicle's seat, with the child then properly utilizing the lap and shoulder belt system.

### Safety Belt Safety:

- Children should use the vehicle's seat belt once they outgrow a booster seat. They should remain in the back seat until they are at least 13 years of age.
- Ensure that children remain sitting upright at all times. They should not lie down or lean up against the car door.
- Never allow the seat's shoulder belt to be placed under the arm or behind the back.
- Assure all passenger and the driver are buckled upon every ride.



## For more information contact Safe Kids Grand Forks

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or  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)



"Like" us on Facebook for more safety tips (Safe Kids Grand Forks)

To find a car seat check up event in the Grand Forks region, visit our website at [www.safekidsgf.com](http://www.safekidsgf.com). Look under "Events".



Preventing injuries:  
at home,  
at school,  
at play,  
and on the way.

## Motor Vehicle Occupant Injury

### We Believe

Every kid has the right to grow up safe, healthy and free from injury.



Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental injury-related death among children ages 14 and under.

When correctly installed and used properly, car seats and seat belts can prevent injury and save lives.

Unrestrained children are more likely to be injured, suffer more severe injuries or die in motor vehicle crashes than children who are properly restrained.

## Steps to Safety:

- 4 out of 5 car seats are installed incorrectly. When used properly, car seats save lives and prevent injuries. Be sure to read the car seat and vehicle owner's manuals to find out how to properly install your car seat.
- Have your car seat checked for proper installation by a car seat technician. For a listing of check-up events in your area, visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
- It is important that ALL of the vehicle's occupants are buckled-up on each and every ride. Children learn from adult role models.
- The back seat is the safest place for children to ride as this keeps them away from airbags and the dangers of frontal crashes, the most common type of crash.
- Laws relating to child passenger safety vary state-to-state. At times, the law may not reflect the safest practice for child occupants.
- Registration cards for car seats should be filled out and mailed in upon purchase.
- Car seats should not be used longer than 6 years from the date of manufacture or as otherwise instructed by the manufacturer.
- If a child has to be placed in the front seat, disable the air bag if possible and move the vehicle seat as far back as possible.
- If a car seat has been in a crash, it may need to be replaced. Visit [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov) for recommendations on seat replacement.

- Car seats should not be purchased second-hand if the crash history of the seat cannot be determined.
- One seat belt is needed for each rider. They cannot share a seat belt.

## Infant Safety:

- The recline angle of a rear-facing car seat is designed to keep the baby's airway open. Make sure that the infant car seat/base is at the proper angle as per the indicator on the seat.
- NEVER place a rear-facing infant in front of an active airbag.
- All infants should ride rear-facing in either an infant car seat or convertible seat until they are at least 2 years of age or they reach the proper weight limit for their seat.
- If an infant car seat is used, the infant may need to be switched to a rear-facing convertible car seat once the maximum height and weight have been reached for that infant seat, as suggested by the manufacturer.
- Use the car's safety belt or LATCH system to lock the car seat into the car. The car seat should not move more than 1" side-to-side or front-to-back. Grab the car seat at the safety belt or LATCH path to test it.
- Put the harnesses through the slots so they are even with or below the infant's shoulders. Be sure the harness is tight so you can't pinch extra webbing at the shoulder.
- Place the chest clip at armpit level.
- Read the car seat owner's manual for specific directions about the position of the car seat handle. Many of them cannot be in the upright position during travel.
- Avoid heavy snowsuits, padding or head supports not purchased with the seat. These can interfere with the harness system or make the harness looser than it appears.

## Toddler Safety:

- New research indicates that toddlers are more than five times safer riding rear-facing in a car seat up to their second birthday.
- Toddlers should remain rear-facing in a convertible car seat until they have reach the maximum height and weight recommended by the car seat or at least the age of 2 (usually 30-40 pounds).
- Put the harness through the slots so they are even or above toddler's shoulders.
- Place the chest clip at armpit level.
- Use the car's safety belt or LATCH system to lock the car seat into the car. The car seat should not move more than 1" side-to-side or front-to-back. Grab the car seat at the safety belt or LATCH path to test it.
- A forward facing seat should be used with a top tether if the vehicle is equipped with compatible hardware. Check the vehicle's owner's manual to see if the car has one.
- Use the harness system in the car seat at least until 40# or longer if allowed.
- For convertible seats (ones that can both forward and rear face), there are two seat belt paths. One is used when the seat faces forward and the other for when it faces backwards. Consult the manual for proper path.

## Booster Seat Safety:

- Most booster seats are designed for children from 40# up to 80 or 100#.
- Inform all drivers who transport your child that booster seat use is a must when your child is in their vehicle. Booster seats are very portable and can be left with the child for use in various vehicles.
- Booster seats do not use a harness system. Instead, they use the vehicle's existing lap and shoulder belt system.
- These seats should NEVER be used with only a lap belt.