

I understand and agree that the sole purpose of this program is to help reduce the incidence of improper child safety seat installation; that this inspection is being provided as a free educational service to me; that this program cannot fully evaluate the quality, safety or condition of the child safety seat, any child safety seat provided or any component of my vehicle, including the seats or safety belts; and that this program cannot guarantee my child's safety in a vehicle collision. I understand that it is important to read and follow the instruction manuals for both the vehicle and the car seat. For these reasons, I hereby release Safe Kids North Carolina and each of the Safe Kids coalitions and each of its divisions, subsidiaries, successors and assigns and other operating entities; and any program participants
from any present or future liability for any injuries or damages that may result from a vehicle collision or otherwise.



## QUICK REFERENCE

## Direction

Babies less than 2 should ride in a rear-facing position to protect the spine and neck. Babies who have outgrown the infant only child restraint (CR) should switch to a convertible CR and use it rear-facing up to the highest height or weight (usually $30-45$ pounds) permitted by the manufacturer. At a minimum, children MUST be age 1 and 20 pounds before facing forward. CR selection may be limited by what fits in the vehicle.
Location
All children under age $\mathbf{1 3}$ should ride in a back seat. If a child must ride in the front seat, then the child with a full harness CR or properly adjusted shoulder belt, Alted in the correct forward facing and upright position, should sit there. Move the vehicle seat back as far away from the airbag as possible. For older children sitting in safety belts next to side airbags, remind them to sit straight up and avoid resting their heads on a window or structural pillar of the vehicle.
Harness
Rear-facing CR harness straps should pass through the slots at or below the child's shoulders. The forward facing CR harness straps should pass through the slots at or above FF harness slouts, the Read CR instructions. Use all CRs until the upper height or weight limits are met. A child is too large for the CR when the shoulders are above the top解 clip must sit at the child's armpit level, and the straps must be threaded properly through the clip.

## Belt-Positioning Booster (BPB) Seats

Use all BPBs with vehicle lap/shoulder safety belts. Check BPB instructions for use with switchable shoulder belts. Special products, such as vests and $Y$ harnesses used with a booster base, must be used according to manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual. Many children will be between 8-12 years before the safety belt alone fits properly. Use a BPB until that time.

## Installation

Fully read the vehicle and CR manufacturer's instructions. In most cases use either LATCH or safety belts, not both together. There are a few BPB that use both lower right front passenger frontal airbag, no system is fail-safe. Secure rear-facing in front of an airbag. Even if the passenger sensing system or airbag switch has turned off the exactly where and how the manufacturer directs. CRs must not move more than 1 inch side to side or front to back when grasped at the belt path. LATCH anchors are used only if both the vehicle and the CR are equipped. Check vehicle manual to identify designated LATCH and tether locations. Always use the top tether as directed by the manufacturer and the vehicle owner's manual. Tethers are never attached to the lower anchor bars. Use tethers on a rear-facing CR only if the manufacturer so directs. Vehicles made after 1996 meet federal safety belt lockability requirements; no locking clip should be needed. Test vehicle safety belts to be sure they are locked at either the retractor or latchplate. Tethers may be used in some vehicles to 40 or 48 pounds (weight of child) and in others to 60 pounds (weight of child plus CR). Heavier children who ride in a harnessed CR require special arrangements. Check with the vehicle manufacturer. Treat unused safety belts as you would any other cords. They are not toys and can
be hazardous if used for any purpose other than restraint.

## Child Ready for Safety Belt

With the child's back and bottom against vehicle seat back, the knees should bend naturally at vehicle seat edge. When the safety belt is buckled, the lap belt fits low on the hips, touching the thighs, and the shoulder belt rests between neck and shoulder on the collarbone. Never place the shoulder belt under arms or behind backs. Optimally, the child's feet should touch the floor.

Other
Remind caregivers to NEVER LEAVE A CHILD ALONE IN A CAR. The CR is not a babysitter. Children should not spend excessive amounts of time in a CR when outside of a vehicle.

This list is not exhaustive and should not be relied upon in place of the NHTSA standardized curriculum.
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