Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts keep children safe in the car

Age of child (years)

Birth 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13+

REAR-FACING CAR SEA

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

BOOSTER SEAT

SEAT BELT



Rear-Facing Car
Seat must be used
under age 2. Use a
carry-type or a
convertible seat
until baby's head is
one inch below
back of seat. Don't
turn convertible
seat forward until
baby meets weight
& height limits
listed for rear-facing
car seat use.



Forward-Facing Car
Seat with a
harness is used
when the rearfacing seat limits
for age, height or
weight are reached.
Use this seat until
child is 6 or 7 years
old or reaches the
seat's limits. Also,
use the tether strap
on car seat to
secure top of seat
to car.



Booster: Use a booster with the car's seat belt once your child has outgrown the harnessed seat.
Use this until age 8 or until your child fits the seat belt properly. For most kids, this is about age 10 and 4 foot 9 inches tall.



Seat Belt: Use the car's lap and shoulder parts of the seat belt for every ride. Proper fit is sitting all the way back with knees bent at edge of cushion, lap belt across upper thighs not on the stomach, and shoulder belt across chest and collarbone.

Maryland requires children under 8 years old to ride in a car seat unless the child is 4 feet, 9 inches or taller. Every child ages 8 - 16 years old not in a car seat must use a seat belt. Children under age 2 must ride in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the seat's height/weight limit.

For help with getting or using a car seat with your child and your car:

Maryland Kids in Safety Seats

MD Department of Health

Call: 443-842-0508

Email: mdh.kiss@Maryland.gov
Contact online: www.mdkiss.org

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Online videos to teach use of car seats:

https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats

