



Child Passenger Safety Guidelines

Parents and caregivers should use a seat belt on every trip, no matter how short the trip is. By modeling this safety practice, good examples are set, and routines and expectations are established. Make sure that children are properly buckled up in a seat belt, booster seat, or a car seat; whichever is appropriate for their age, height and weight.

Know the stages:

- Birth to Age 1 - Children under the age of one-year and less than 20 lbs. **MUST** be restrained in a rear-facing child safety seat. Many newer seats will restrain a child rear-facing up to 30-35 lbs. Troopers encourage parents to keep their children rear-facing as long as possible.
- Age 1 & 20 Pounds - Children that are at least one-year old and 20 lbs. may be restrained in a forward-facing child safety seat with an internal harness system.
- Children at least 30 Pounds – children at least 30 pounds may use a booster seat, but troopers encourage parents to keep their children restrained in a forward-facing seat until at least 40 lbs.
- Children at least 40 Pounds & under Age 8 - Indiana law requires all children under the age of eight to use a child restraint system in accordance with the child restraint system manufacturer's instruction, which are based upon the child's height and weight. The child restraint system normally used by children in this age group is the booster seat.
- All Children under 16 - All children under the age of 16 must be properly restrained either by using a seat belt or a child restraint system, to include a booster seat.

All children younger than 13 years old should ride in the back seat. Airbags can kill young children riding in the front seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat or in front of an air bag. Place children in the middle of the back seat when possible, because it is the safest spot in the vehicle.

Adapted from <http://www.in.gov/isp/2897.htm>