



Child Passenger Safety

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death and disability for children nationwide. Car seats are 71 percent effective in reducing infant fatalities, 54 percent effective in reducing toddler fatalities and 67 percent effective in reducing the need for hospitalization.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Kentucky's car seat law?

Children less than 40 inches must be properly installed in a car seat. KRS 189.125 (3)(a)

2. What is Kentucky's booster seat law?

Children younger than 8 years old and between 40 and 57 inches must be in a booster. Children younger than 8 but taller than 57 inches do not have to ride in a booster seat. KRS 189.125(3)(b)

3. When can my child go forward-facing?

A child must be kept rear-facing to a minimum of one year of age and 20 pounds, with best practice being two years of age and 30 pounds. When using a convertible seat, it is best to keep the child rear-facing until the maximum rear-facing weight limit (read instructions or seat label).

4. Which slots should I use for the harness straps?

When rear-facing, the harness straps should be at or below the child's shoulders.

When forward-facing, the harness straps should be at or above the child's shoulders.

5. What is the clip located on the harness strap?

This is called the retainer clip and should be kept at armpit level. This enables the harness to stay in the proper position.

6. How tight should the harness straps be on the child?

The straps must be snug against the child's shoulders so you cannot pinch any excess webbing.

7. How tight should my child seat be in the vehicle?

The seat should not move more than one inch side-to-side or back-and-forth when pulling at the belt path.

8. When can my child sit in the front seat?

The risk of injury is greater for children in the front seat, with or without an airbag. Research shows it is best for children age 12 and under to always ride in the back seat.

9. How do I know if my car seat needs to be replaced?

If the seat is older than six years or has exceeded the manufacturer's expiration date, it must be replaced.

If the seat has been involved in a crash, it should be replaced. Check with your insurance company before purchasing a new seat.

Using a seat with unknown history is not recommended.

10. Where can I get my car seat checked?

Contact SAFE KIDS Fayette County for sites in Lexington or SAFE KIDS Louisville for sites in Louisville and Shelbyville. Other sites: Contact your local fire station, police department, health department or other safety-related agency and ask if they have a certified child passenger safety technician on staff. You may also visit: <https://cert.safekids.org/> and click on "Find A Tech."