



## Tips for Car Seat Safety for Children 4 to 7 Years Old

Because car seats save lives, it's the law to use them. Even so, car crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for children ages 1 through 12.

For a car seat to do its job, it has to fit your child and vehicle, and be used correctly every time you travel. Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle. Your child needs the right seat at the right time, used in the right way.

Children between 4 and 7 years old should ride in a car seat that faces forward with a harness until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's maker.

### Tips for Installing a Forward-Facing Car Seat Correctly

- Always refer to your specific car seat maker's instructions; read the car's owner's manual to learn how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check the height and weight limits.
- To do its job, a car seat must be held tightly against the vehicle seat. When attached your car seat should not move more than an inch forward or sideways.
- If you cannot attach the seat tightly, reread the instructions. You can also visit your local child passenger safety technician or car seat inspection station for help. Find one here: [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).





Keep your child in his or her forward-facing seat with harness for as long as possible. Once he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat maker, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the backseat.

### Tips for Using A Booster Seat Correctly

- Place the booster seat flat on the vehicle seat.
- Sit the child on the booster seat, place the lap and shoulder belt over the child, and buckle the seat belt.
- Adjust the lap belt so it fits snugly across the child's upper thighs, not across the tummy.

- Adjust the shoulder belt and thread through the positioner guide/clip (if available) so that the belt lies snugly across the center of your child's shoulder. Check the seat belt fit often.
- Buckle the booster seat in the car even when the child is not in it. A loose booster seat can injure others in a crash.
- Never use a booster seat with a lap belt only. Booster seats must always be used with a lap/shoulder belt.

### Stay in the Know - Get Automatic Recall Information

Right after you install your seat, write your name and address on the postage-paid card that comes with the car seat and send it in. If the seat is found to have a possible safety problem and has to be recalled, the maker of the seat will let you know that the seat cannot be used or provide other instructions. You can also register your car seat online at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

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