

8 tips for a safely buckled up trip:

- 1 Be a role model for your child.** Buckle up every single time – even on short trips.
- 2 Follow directions.** Always read your child safety seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual when installing a child safety seat.
- 3 Make sure it fits.** Use child safety seats or booster seats until the adult lap and shoulder belt fit your child correctly.
- 4 Keep 'em in their place.** Always put children under 13 years of age in the back seat.
- 5 One at a time.** Never place more than one child in the same safety belt.
- 6 Know when to let go.** Never hold a child on your lap in a vehicle. In a crash, your child can be ripped from your arms and severely injured.
- 7 Lay down the law.** Never let a child push a shoulder belt under their arm or behind their back.
- 8 Keep 'em inside.** Never allow a child under 18 to ride in the open bed of a pickup truck. It's illegal in Oregon – and it's often deadly.

Need more help? Call the experts.

A variety of nonprofit organizations and public agencies offer free child safety seat checks to the public across Oregon, supported by grants from ODOT – Transportation Safety. Nationally certified technicians at these organizations and agencies can help you choose the right kind of child safety seat and use it properly. The checkups are available at scheduled times or by appointment, and will vary by location.

Some organizations or agencies may also provide discounted child safety seats and boosters to qualifying families in need of financial assistance. For more information on Oregon law, child safety seats and booster installation, or to locate a checkup event, please visit www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Pages/Belts-Seats.aspx.

Buckle Up. The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety – ODOT

Stumped on SAFETY SEATS? Befuddled by BOOSTERS?



**Making sense
of keeping kids
safe in the car.**

Kids are too small for adult safety belts.

Safety belts are designed to fit adults – not children. In a crash, a child can slip out of an adult safety belt or even be injured by a poorly fitting one. Kids who aren't buckled up at all face even greater danger. Securing your child in the right type of safety seat or booster seat dramatically reduces their risk of injury in a crash.

One size doesn't fit all.

The best seat for your child is one that fits your child's size, is correctly installed and is used properly – every time you drive. That's why Oregon has laws designed to protect your child in a crash.

Which seat is right for my child?

REAR-FACING SEAT

Oregon Law: Children must ride in rear-facing safety seats until they are at least 2 years old.

- Never put a rear-facing seat in the front seat of a vehicle with dashboard-mounted air bags.
- Secure your child into the seat snugly, at proper recline, positioning the harness retainer clip across the chest at armpit level.
- Shoulder harnesses should come out of the seat at or below your child's shoulders.



The A-B-C of child safety seats:

Always follow your vehicle and child safety seat owner's manuals for installation.

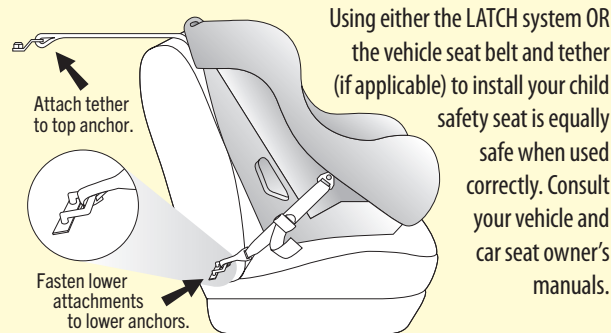
Buckle your child snugly into the seat's harness.

Correctly position the harness retainer clip at your child's armpit level.

Kids take a back seat for safety.

Children should ride in the rear seat of a vehicle until they are at least 13 years of age.

Vehicles built after 2002 are equipped with the LATCH system, usually located in the right and left rear seat positions.



FORWARD-FACING CHILD SAFETY SEAT

Oregon Law: Children older than 2 years must continue to use a safety seat with a harness until they weigh at least 40 pounds.

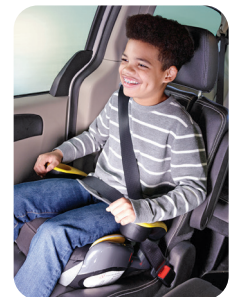
- Make sure the forward-facing child safety seat is placed in an upright position and in the back seat every time your child rides.
- Position the harness retainer clip at your child's armpit level. The harnesses should come out of the harness slots at or above your child's shoulders.
- Use a tether when available.



BOOSTER SEAT

Oregon Law: Children who weigh more than 40 pounds must use a booster seat until the adult seatbelt fits them correctly AND they are at least 8 years old OR they are 4'9" tall.

- A booster seat raises a child so that adult lap and shoulder belts fit them correctly. Never use a booster seat with just a lap belt.
- When the rear seats of a vehicle have lap belts only, Oregon law exempts children from the requirement to use a booster seat but requires that they be secured by the lap belt.



When can my child ride safely without a booster seat?

Children usually do not fit into an adult safety belt until they are at least 4'9". Children who are moved to an adult safety belt too soon face an increased risk of injury because they can easily slide out of a belt during a crash. Even adjustable safety belt systems available on newer vehicles are not designed to fit a child and will not provide adequate protection in a crash.

If an adult safety belt does not fit them properly, a child should continue using a booster seat, even if they are older than age 8.

An adult safety belt will only fit correctly when:

- A child can sit all the way back against the seat of the vehicle with their knees bent comfortably over the edge of the vehicle's seat.
- The child's feet rest flat on the vehicle floor.
- The lap belt fits low, across their thighs – never across their stomach.
- The shoulder belt fits flat across the collarbone and crosses the child's chest; it should never lay across a child's neck.
- The child can sit like this for the whole trip.