

Child Passenger Safety Travel TIPS:

As a parent, you influence your kids by modeling safe driving practices, including **buckling up every time** you get in the car. Teach your family that safety is the responsibility of all passengers as well as the driver.



- **Follow the directions** of the child car seat manufacturer & the vehicle instructions for buckling the seat into your car or truck.
- Tips for installing a child car seat properly: <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/RightFit.htm>
- Did you know that 3 out of 4 child car seats are used incorrectly? Most parents do not realize that they are putting their child at risk. Please have your seats checked by a certified child passenger safety technician near you: <http://www.wcpsa.com/Fitting%20Sites.htm>
- The back seat is 40% safer than the front.
- **Never place a child in a rear-facing child car seat in front of an air bag.**
- Select a child car seat that fits your child: <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/RightSeat.htm>
- Not all child car seats work in all vehicles: <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/EaseofUse.htm>
- Use the child car seat correctly installed every time!
- Every transition decreases protection. Delay transition to the next step as long as possible. Rear-facing is the safest for your child.
- Begin using a child car seat immediately. Protect your newborn in a rear-facing seat on the way home from the hospital and every ride.
- Never leave a child alone in a car.
- Provide a special soft toy to play with when riding in a motor vehicle.
In a collision objects can become airborne, possibly striking & injuring you or your child. Window cling sunshades are recommended over roller blinds for the same reason. The suction cups can release and the roller blind becomes a projectile.
- Don't let children eat while riding in a car or truck. A sudden stop could cause a child to choke.
- Lock your doors. Teach children not to play with door handles.
- Be aware of dangers in and around cars: <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/InandAroundtheCar.htm>
- Transitioning your child out of a booster seat and into a seat belt usually comes when the child is between 8 to 12 years old: <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/seatbelts.htm>
- You can't be sure about the history of a used seat. Best practice is to purchase a new seat.
- Never use a car seat that has been in a crash. Check for expiration dates and recalls.
- Don't place infant seat on top of a shopping cart. The cart becomes top heavy and increases the chance of a fall.

Airplane travel tips:

American Academy of Pediatrics (<http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/news-features-and-safety-tips/pages/Travel-Safety-Tips.aspx>)

- When traveling on an airplane, a child is best protected when properly restrained in a car safety seat appropriate for the age, weight and height of the child until the child weighs more than 40 lbs. and can use the aircraft seat belt.
- The car safety seat should have a label noting that it is FAA-approved. Belt-positioning booster seats cannot be used on airplanes, but they can be checked as luggage (usually without baggage fees) for use in rental cars and taxis.
- Although the FAA allows children under age 2 to be held on an adult's lap, the AAP recommends that families explore options to ensure that each child has her own seat. If it is not feasible to purchase a ticket for a small child, try to select a flight that is likely to have empty seats.
- Arrange to have a car safety seat at your destination or bring your own along. Airlines will typically allow families to bring a child's car safety seat as an extra luggage item with no additional luggage expense.
- If you are not able to bring your car seat with you, contact the vehicle rental agency for a rental. Call ahead to reserve a child car seat. Rental agencies have been known to run out of child car seats or not have the proper seat type for your child.
- Booster seats may NOT be used on an airplane because they MUST be used with a lap/shoulder belt. Please check it when traveling.