

# Is your child in the right car seat?

## Rear-facing Infant Seat

Ride rear-facing until reaching the maximum height or weight of the car seat.



## Rear-facing Convertible Seat

Ride rear-facing until reaching the maximum height or weight of the car seat or at least until 2 years old.



## Forward-facing Convertible and Combination Seats

Ride forward-facing until reaching the maximum height and weight of the car seat or at least until 4 years old AND weigh 40 pounds.



## Highback Booster Seat

Ride in a booster until 4'9" tall or are at least 8 years old or weigh 80 pounds. Use a highback booster seat with lap and shoulder belt combination.



## Backless Booster Seat

Ride in a booster until 4'9" tall or are at least 8 years old or weigh 80 pounds. Use a backless booster seat with lap and shoulder belt combination. The backless booster must be used with good head support behind the child.



## Seatbelt

Children younger than age 13 always should ride in the back seat. Usually, kids taller than 4'9" can fit correctly in lap and shoulder belts. The lap belt should fit low and snug on the hips, not up on the tummy. The shoulder belt should fit snugly across the shoulder.





# Make sure your child is riding safely!

Car seats, booster seats and seat belts are the law in Wisconsin. Still, only 1 in 10 car seats is used correctly. Car seat information is easy to find, but often it's hard for parents and caregivers to decide which seat is best for their child. This resource can help to answer common questions about transporting children safely.

## What is required?

The Wisconsin child passenger safety law states the minimum required. Most pediatricians and injury prevention professionals recommend more than the minimum to protect children in a crash. This is called "best practice."

Type of seat	Wisconsin law	Best practice
<b>Rear-facing car seat</b>	Children must be rear-facing in a car seat until age 1 and 20 pounds.	American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children stay rear-facing until at least age 2 or longer if they are still within the weight and height restrictions of their rear-facing seat.
<b>Forward-facing harness seat</b>	Once a child is in a forward-facing car seat, he or she must remain in a harness until age 4 <b>and</b> 40 pounds.	Some seats have harness weights up to 50-80 lbs., allowing children to stay in a harness longer. Children are much better protected when restrained in a harness.
<b>Booster seat</b>	A booster seat is required once a child has graduated from a forward-facing harness seat, until the child reaches one of the following: 8 years old <b>or</b> 80 pounds <b>or</b> 4 feet and 9 inches tall.	Children should stay in a booster seat until they are tall enough to sit on the vehicle seat without slouching <b>and</b> the seat belt fits snugly across the hips, chest and shoulder. This is usually 4'9".
<b>Seat belt</b>	A seat belt is required once a child has outgrown the requirements of a booster seat. Always use a lap and shoulder belt instead of a lap belt only.	
<b>Back seat</b>	If there is a back seat, children 4 and younger need to be restrained appropriately in the back seat.	Children 12 and younger should sit in the back seat.

**For more information about having your child's car seat checked, call the North Shore Health Department at 414-371-2980 or visit [www.nsfire.org](http://www.nsfire.org) to schedule a car seat appointment.**



Check out these resources: [safekidswi.org](http://safekidswi.org) • [usa.safekids.org](http://usa.safekids.org) • [chw.org/carseats](http://chw.org/carseats) • [wcpa.com](http://wcpa.com)