

Risk Factor Crash Course Fact Sheet: Child Restraints

Key Facts

Children are safer seated in the rear of the vehicle, rather than the front.¹

Children under at least two years old should use rear-facing car seats, with snug fitting harness straps, and the seat should be made for their specific size and age.²

Toddlers and children over the age of two should ride in the back seat in forward-facing car seats that fit properly until they outgrow the harness.²

A locked seat belt and top tether or isofix should be used to hold a car seat in the car.

Children over the weight and height limit of forward facing car seats should ride in the back and use a booster seat that allows the lap and belt to sit low on the hips. The shoulder belt should rest on the shoulder - never under the arm, behind the back, or on the neck.²



Resources

[World Health Organization](#)

[Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

[Safe Kids Worldwide Car Seat Guide](#)

[Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015](#)

[Safe Steps: Road Safety](#)

¹ World Health Organization, *Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015: Supporting a Decade of Action* (Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2015).

² Safe Kids Worldwide, "Basic Car Seat Safety," accessed September 26, 2016, https://www.safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/basic_car_seat_safety_-_english_2016.pdf.