

## Young Children

**Weight:** Over 40 lbs. to about 80 lbs. or more

**Type of Seat:** Belt-positioning booster seat

**Seat Position:** Forward-facing

**Always Make Sure:** Belt-positioning booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belt.

**Warning:** Make sure the lap belt fits low and tight to avoid abdominal injuries



## **Wear It Right!!!**

"Properly worn" means with both straps snugly fitted to transfer the impact of the collision to the parts of your body that can take it: your hip and shoulder bones. With just the shoulder strap on, you can still slide out from under it and be strangled, while the lap belt alone doesn't keep your face from hitting the steering wheel.



# CAR SEAT SAFETY

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San Bernardino, CA 92415-0179  
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San Bernardino  
County Fire  
Department  
Community Safety Division

## Seat Belt Safety

Safety belts are the most effective means of saving lives and reducing serious injuries in traffic crashes.

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death to children in America. Each year in the U.S., approximately 1,800 children ages 14 & under are killed as occupants in motor vehicles and more than 280,000 are injured.

Safety belts, air bags and proper child safety seats, when used consistently and correctly, can significantly reduce the rate of injury in a crash.

The number of lives saved could be substantially increased if more people used safety belts.

### Life-Saving Advice

- Always wear lap and shoulder belt.
- Never place shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back.
- Always use rear-facing child seats for children under 20 lbs and 1 year old.
- Always use forward-facing child seats for children 20-40 lbs and over 1 year old.
- Never place rear-facing child seat in front seat of vehicle with passenger side airbags.
- Always place children 12 years and under in back seat.

## Child Safety Seats

More than 80% of child safety seats are not used correctly. The correct installation of child safety seats is often very confusing to parents, grandparents and caregivers. New technology in vehicles and child safety seats adds to this confusion.

### Proper Use of Child Safety Seats

The selection of the proper child safety seat is often confusing. Parents/ Caregivers must consider the weight and height of the child when selecting the proper seat. You must look at the weight and height recommendations made by the child safety seat manufacturer.

## Child Passenger Safety

A PARENT'S PRIMER

1	REAR-FACING INFANT SEATS		in the back seat from birth to at least one year old and at least 20 pounds	
2	FORWARD-FACING TODDLER SEATS		in the back seat from age one and 20 pounds to about age four and 40 pounds	
3	BOOSTER SEATS		in the back seat from about age four to at least age eight, unless 4'9"	
4	SAFETY BELTS		in the back seat at age eight or older or taller than 4'9".	

REMEMBER: All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

## Infants

**Weight/Age:** Birth to at least 1 year and 20-22 lbs.

**Type of Seat:** Infant only or rear-facing convertible

**Seat Position:** Rear-facing only.

**Always Make Sure:** Children to at least one year and at least 20 lbs. in rear-facing seats in back seats, be secured in back seat harness straps at or below shoulder level.

**Warning: Do not place infants in the front seat of cars with air bag!**

## Toddlers/ Preschool

**Weight:** Over 20 lbs. To about 40 lbs. and over 1 year.

**Type of Seat:** Convertible / forward-facing

**Seat Position:** Forward-facing

**Always Make Sure:** Harness straps should be at or about shoulders. Most seats require top slot for forward-facing.

**Warning: All Children age 12 and under ride in the back seat**

