

## GROWING UP SAFE

As children grow, how they sit in your car, truck or SUV should change. The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration recommends the following four steps to help save your child from injury or death.



### INFANTS- BIRTH TO 12 MONTHS

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat.

There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.



### AGE 1 TO 3

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe.

Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

### AGE 4 TO 7



Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer.

Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

**REMEMBER! Kentucky law requires** children under the age of 7 **AND** shorter than 50 inches be restrained in a booster seat.



### AGE 8-TO 12

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. .

For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.



# Front Seat Versus Back Seat

To schedule an appointment with a  
Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician  
MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
214 Boggs Lane  
Richmond, KY 40475  
859-626-4251

For More Information  
On Child Passenger Safety and Car Seats  
Check out these web sites:

Visit the NHTSA Website at  
[WWW.NHTSA.GOV](http://WWW.NHTSA.GOV)

SAFE KIDS USA  
[WWW.SAFEKIDS.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEKIDS.ORG)

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
[www.madisoncountyhealthdept.org](http://www.madisoncountyhealthdept.org)



Be a Children's Champion



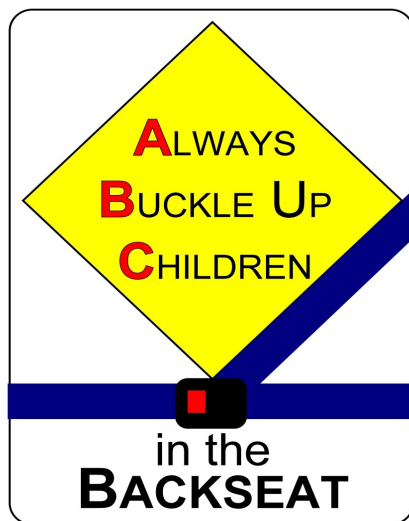
# When Can I Sit Up Front?



MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
MADISON COUNTY SAFETY COALITION

## Important Safety Reminders

- ◆ Always read the child restraint manufacturer instructions and the vehicle owner manual instructions for seat belts and car seats. Improper installation could result in death or serious injury .
- ◆ Children in rear-facing child seats should not be placed in the front seat of vehicles equipped with passenger-side air bags. The impact of a deploying air bag striking a rear-facing child seat could result in injury to the child.
- ◆ NHTSA also recommends that under the age of 13 sit in the rear seat away from the force of a deploying air bag.
- ◆ Children under the age of 13 are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a motor vehicle.
- ◆ Always use lap and shoulder restraints when available. Never place the shoulder restraint behind the child's back or under their arm.
- ◆ Check [www.NHSTA.gov](http://www.NHSTA.gov) for recalls on safety seats.



*“Child safety seats reduce the risk of death by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers in passenger cars.”*

**1,210 CHILDREN** age 14 and younger, were killed in car crashes in the United States in 2010.\*

**171,000 CHILDREN** age 14 and younger were injured in car crashes in 2010 .\*

An average of **3 children are killed** each day as a result of car crashes in the United States.\*

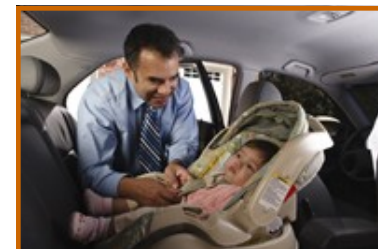
An average of **469 children are injured** every day in car crashes in the United States.\*

Seating children in the back seat and in the correct safety restraints could have prevented many of the tragedies.

*“Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age 3 to 14 years old.”*

## How can we protect our children from injuries?

- ◆ Child safety seats reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by 71% for infants, and by 54% for toddlers ages 1 to 4 years.
- ◆ The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends booster seats for children until they are at least 8 years of age or 4'9" tall.
- ◆ According to researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, booster seats reduce injury risk by 59% compared to seat belts alone, for children 4 to 7 years,.
- ◆ All children under the age of 13 should ride in the back seat. Putting children in the back seat eliminates the injury risk of deployed front passenger-side airbags and places children in the safest part of the vehicle in the event of a crash.
- ◆ Child passengers should never be seated in front of an airbag. Airbags can injure or kill children in a crash that might otherwise have been survivable.
- ◆ Overall, for children less than 16 years, riding in the back seat is associated with a 40% reduction in the risk of serious injury.



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