

Idaho's New Child Restraint Law

Kids 4 to 6 years old need to be in belt positioning booster seats once they've outgrown their child safety seats. New law is effective on July 1, 2005. Primary law, \$60.00 fine.

As a general rule of thumb, never place a child in under 13 years of age in front of an air bag. The following are a list of guidelines to be used when selecting an appropriate child safety restraint:

Children under 1 year of age **MUST** be in a rear facing infant seat with/without removable bases.

Children 1 year old to 4 years (typically 20 to 40 pounds) a forward facing child safety seat is recommended with harness straps positioned on the child's shoulders, complete with a harness chest clip positioned at the armpit level, and in the upright position (not reclined), and always in the rear seat of the vehicle.

Children ages 4 to 6 **MUST** be in an approved booster seat, using both lap and shoulder belts, **NEVER** with lap belt only. The seat should be located in the rear vehicle seat, facing forward while the lap belt is positioned across the top of child's thigh and the shoulder belt should be centered across the shoulder and chest.

For more information on child safety seat selection and installation:

- Visit www.NHTSA.dot.gov
- Call the Office of Highway Safety at 208.334.8100



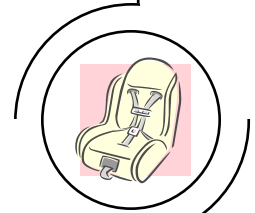
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*Nothing is more rewarding than
caring for your children!*

Guidelines for Child Restraints



Pocatello Children's Clinic
Phone: 208-232-1443

Recommendations by the Idaho Transportation Department

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has revised its child restraint guidelines to be categorized by age rather than by type of child seat in order to keep pace with the latest scientific and medical research and the development of new child restraint technologies.

Under the new guidelines, issued recently, NHTSA advises parents and caregivers to keep children in each restraint type, including rear-facing, forward-facing and booster seats, for as long as possible before moving them up to the next type of seat.

For instance, the safety agency recommends using the restraints in the rear-facing position as long as children fit within the height and weight limits of the car seat as established by the manufacturer. The rear-facing position reduces stresses to the neck and spinal cord and is particularly important for growing babies.

NHTSA said that its new guidelines are consistent with the latest advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which advises parents to keep kids in rear-facing restraints until two years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer. There is no need to hurry to transition a child to the next restraint type.

"Safety is our highest priority," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "The 'best' car seat is the one that fits your child, fits your vehicle and one you will use every time your child is in the car."

NHTSA Administrator David Strickland pointed out that while all car seats sold in the U.S. must meet federal child restraint safety standards, he said, "Selecting the right seat for your child can be a challenge for many parents. NHTSA's new revised guidelines will help consumers pick the appropriate seat for their child."

Administrator Strickland said that parents also should consider other factors when selecting a car seat, including their child's weight, height, physical development and behavioral needs, as well as the family's economics and type of vehicle.

Additional recommendations for child seat use from NHTSA include the following:

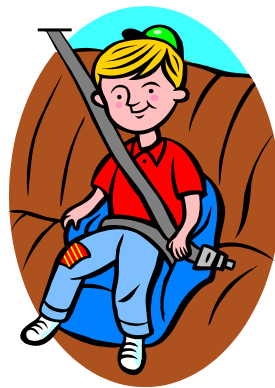
Always read child seat manufacturers' instructions and the vehicle owner's manual for important information on height and weight limits and how to install the car seat using the seat belt or the LATCH system.

All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

Children in rear-facing car seats should never ride in front of an active passenger air bag.

View NHTSA's new child restraint guidelines. (<http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>).

Published 3-25-2011



Recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics

Infants/toddlers: Rear-facing only seats and rear-facing convertible seats. All infants and toddlers should ride in a Rear-Facing Car Seat until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat's manufacturer.



Toddler/preschoolers: Convertible seats and forward-facing seats with harness. Any child 2 years or older who has outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car seat, should use a Forward-Facing Car Seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed their car seat's manufacturer. This also applies to any child younger than 2 years who has outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit of their seat.

School-aged children: Booster seats. All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car seat should use a Belt-Positioning Booster Seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age.

Older children: Seat belts. When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use Lap and Shoulder Seat Belts for optimal protection.

All children younger than 13 years should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.