

# DID YOU KNOW?

## **Buckle up. Then cover up.**

Always remove your child's heavy outer clothing. Bulky clothing and blankets prevent harness straps from snugly securing your child. To keep your child warm, buckle the harness first, and then place the coat or blanket over the harness.

## **Used and borrowed seats:**

Do your homework and learn the history of the seat!

- Do you know the original owner of the seat?
- Is the seat missing parts or damaged?
- Has the seat been in a crash?
- Has the seat been recalled? If so, has the issue been corrected?
- Are the original labels on the seat? The labels should show you how to use the seat (in English and Spanish) and provide information, such as the seat's make, model, and manufacturing date.
- Has the seat expired?

## **Lap and shoulder belts:**

Vehicle seat belt systems are made for adults! Children under 4'9" tall and weighing under 80 pounds should not use a standard lap and shoulder belt.



# QUICK SAFETY TIPS

## **SELECTION**

Is your seat appropriate for your child's age, height, and weight? Check the label on your car seat to find out! You should also consider your child's developmental level when selecting a seat.

## **DIRECTION**

Keep your child in a rear-facing position as long as possible! When they reach the maximum weight or height limit for the rear-facing position, move your child to a forward-facing seat.

## **LOCATION**

Keep all children in the back seat until they are 13.

## **INSTALLATION**

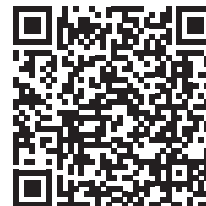
Once your car seat is installed, use your hand to test the seat's tightness at the belt path. A properly installed car seat will not move more than an inch side to side or back and forth when shaken at the belt path.

## **HARNESSING**

Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots. With the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap vertically at your child's shoulder. You are good to go if you cannot pinch any excess webbing!

Schedule a free car seat check with a fitting station or certified child passenger safety technician near you.

**334-206-3359**



# SAFETY STARTS WITH A CLICK... BUCKLE UP ALABAMA!



# Car Seat Facts

In Alabama, motor vehicle crashes are the **leading cause of death** for children ages **1 to 14 years old**.

Child passenger safety restraints save lives. They reduce the risk of death in a crash by **71% for infants** and **54% for toddlers**.

In Alabama, **85% of car seats** are installed incorrectly.

## Alabama Child Restraint Law

Effective July 1, 2006, "Every person transporting a child in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state, shall provide for the protection of the child by properly using a child passenger restraint system." The size appropriate restraint system required for a child shall include all of the following:

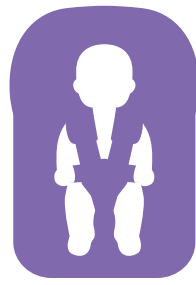
- 1. Birth to Age 1 or 20 pounds:** Infant only seats and convertible seats used in the rear facing position.
- 2. Age 1 or 20 pounds to age 5 or 40 pounds:** Convertible seats in the forward position or forward facing seats.
- 3. Age 5 or 40 pounds to age 6:** Booster seats.
- 4. Age 6 to Age 15:** Seat belts.

*Any person violating the provisions of this act may be fined \$25.*

### Smoking and Vaping in Vehicles

Alabama law prohibits smoking or vaping in motor vehicles with children ages 14 and younger present.

*Any person violating the provisions of this act may be fined \$100.*



# GUIDELINES

## Rear-Facing Car Seat

**Birth – 12 months:** Your child should **always** ride in a rear-facing car seat.

**1 – 3 years old:** Riding in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the maximum height or weight limit for rear-facing will keep your child safer. Convertible car seats usually have a higher height and weight limit, allowing your child to remain rear-facing as long as possible. If you have a rear-facing infant seat, consider moving to a rear-facing convertible as the next step.

## Forward-Facing Car Seat

**1 – 7 years old:** Once your child has reached the height or weight limit for rear-facing, he or she should ride in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and top tether. Once he or she reaches the maximum height or weight limit for forward-facing, he or she is ready to travel in a booster seat.

## Booster Seat

**8 – 12 years old:** Your child is ready for a booster seat when he or she can sit upright with the seat belt properly positioned for the entire trip. A backless booster seat should not be used in a seating position without head support. Your child should remain in a booster seat until he or she fits properly in a seat belt. Remember, seat belts are made for adults.

## Seat Belts

**8 – 12 years old:** Your child is ready to use a seat belt when he or she can do the following:

- ✓ Sit with his or her back against the vehicle seat, without slouching.
- ✓ Keep his or her knees so they naturally bend over the edge of the seat.
- ✓ Keep his or her feet flat on the floor.
- ✓ Sit with lap belt lying snugly across the upper thighs and low on the hips, not across the stomach.
- ✓ Sit with the shoulder belt lying snugly across the shoulder and chest, not across the neck or face.

If your child can successfully do ALL of these, he or she is ready to use a seat belt in the vehicle in which the test was conducted.