



Rear Facing Car Seats for Toddlers

Pennsylvania law has changed.

Effective August 12, 2016, children two years or younger must use rear-facing car seats.

Why Rear-Facing Car Seats are better

Very young children are especially at risk for head and spinal cord injuries because their bones and ligaments are still developing. Their heads are also proportionately larger than their necks, so the structural support system is still a little wobbly. Rear-facing seats give the best support to your child's head, neck, and spine, and prevent your child's head from being thrown away from his body in the event of a car crash. In 2011 the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) cited a study that found children younger than 2 are 75 percent less likely to be killed or injured in a car crash if they're in a rear-facing car seat.

Child safety seat recommendations

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.

Transportation for Children with Special Needs

The Traffic Injury Prevention Project sponsored by PennDOT provides school districts, school bus contractors, hospitals, pediatricians, parents and other health care providers with the most current information about the atypical transportation needs of children with special health care needs, teen parents, special education students and the preschool population. Information is available for passenger vehicles, school buses/vehicles, as well as wheel chairs and child passenger safety restraints. <http://pakidstravelsafe.org>

Do you need a different car seat for your child?

Check the car seat height and weight limits. If you would like assistance obtaining a different car seat, contact a Car Seat Loan Program:

Cumberland County: South Pennsylvania Highway Safety
Robert Mott, (717) 766-1616

Dauphin County: Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital
Shannon Kearns-DePatto, (717) 531-7233

Franklin County: Chambersburg Fire Department
Jackie Umberger, (717) 263-5872

Pregnancy Ministries, Inc.
Linda Barr, (717) 267-3738

Perry County: Perry County Family Center
Shelley Dreyer-Avila, (717) 582-3656

York County: Hanover Hospital
Sharon Walb, (717) 633-2295

Wellspan Community Health Improvement/Safe Kids York County
Alice Price, (888) 232-7233

Information provided by the PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project. For more information, visit the website (<http://pakidstravelsafe.org/>) or call 1-800-CAR-BELT.



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For more information, contact: Elida Murray, (717) 220-1465 X 430
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