



A CAREGIVER'S GUIDE TO TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

NEW YORK STATE LAW

- All children under the age of 8 must be in an appropriate, federally approved child safety seat when riding in the car.
- Children under the age of 4 and weigh less than 40 lbs. must ride in a car seat with a 5-point harness.
- All passengers under the age of 16 in the back must be buckled up.

Additionally...

- Children older than 8 may still need a booster seat- they need to be at least 4'9" tall and weigh between 80-100 lbs. to be able to wear the seat belt correctly.
- Children under 13 should not sit in the front seat. Ever.
- Children under the age of 2 should be in a rear-facing car seat- will be the law in 2019.
- 3 out of 4 people use their car seats incorrectly – that's a lot!
- Car seats expire! Depending on the manufacturer/model of the seat, they should be destroyed after 6-10 years.

SOME TIPS

Selecting a Car Seat

- The best seat is the one that's easy for YOU to use, is affordable, and is the right seat for the height and weight of the child.
- Never pick one up at a garage sale or second hand – you won't know it's crash history.
- Know the height and weight of the child before you buy, and then check the labels on the package.
- Car seats that have lower connectors that look like staplers (as opposed to "hooks") may be easier to install and uninstall.
- Some seats on the market can suit the need for many different sized children and are relatively easy to adjust from one size to another. If you have a few grandchildren and will be taking them on separate rides, that might be a good way to go.
- All seats must have stickers on the sides that list the make, model, recommended height and weight limitations. Read the stickers!
- Not all car seats "fit" in all vehicles. If your car seat doesn't fit, bring it back and get a different model.

Installing a Car Seat

- GET HELP! A certified car seat technician will show you how to do it correctly.
- Most counties have several permanent fitting stations, and individual events are often held at parks and other locations.
- Can't get to a fitting station? Check the manufacturer's installation videos on their websites, or take the time to really read the owner's manual.
- Many local fire departments and police stations do not have certified technicians – call and ask if they do – don't assume!
- Visit www.saferny.ny.gov for fitting stations near you.