

# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

*ALWAYS, read and follow both the vehicle owner's manual and the car seat instructions!*

## IS YOUR CAR SEAT CORRECT ???

Car Seats are 71% effective in reducing deaths for infants and 54% effective in reducing toddler deaths. \*

**CAR SEATS MUST BE USED  
CORRECTLY TO BE EFFECTIVE!**

As many as 80% of car seats are used incorrectly \*\*

### **Need a Car Seat INSPECTION?**

Have your car seat checked by a certified technician

Register for any of the following:

- **Car Seat 101** (Free class)
- **Car Seat Inspection** (Individual Appointment - \$20)
- **Safe Baby Express** (One stop safety class - \$65)
- **Car Seat Check-Up Event** (Free - limited events held annually)

**Call (813) 870-4747**

or visit us online at

[StJosephsChildrens.com](http://StJosephsChildrens.com)

Questions ?? please call (813)615-0589

*Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 14 in the U.S. Our goal is to ensure that all children are appropriately restrained in vehicles. Here are some tips to help keep your children safe in the car.*

## Rear-facing car seats:

- All infants should ride rear-facing in either an *infant-only* car seat or *convertible* car seat.
- If an infant-only car seat is used, the infant should be switched to a rear-facing convertible car seat once the maximum height or weight limits for the infant-only seat has been reached.
- Many infant-only seats have maximum limits ranging from 20-32 lbs and 26-32 inches and should only be used rear-facing. Check your labels carefully.
- Rear-facing is best. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children stay rear-facing in a convertible seat until age 2 or as long as possible until they reach the maximum height/weight limit (often 30-35lbs & up to 36 inches).
- Never put a rear-facing seat in front of an airbag.
- The seat should be semi-reclined at a 30°- 45° angle.
- Place the child's harness straps through the slots at or below the shoulder level. Place the harness clip at child's armpit level.
- Tighten the harness straps so they are snug. You should not be able to pinch any slack in the harness.
- The car seat should be locked into place allowing less than 1" of movement at the belt path. Make sure the correct belt path is used.



**St. Joseph's Children's Hospital**

BayCare Health System



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### **Forward-facing car seats:**

- Children who have outgrown their rear-facing seat may ride forward-facing in an appropriate car seat (refer to rear-facing info. on front page)
- Place the harness straps at or above the shoulders. Place the harness clip at armpit level.
- Tighten the harness straps so they are snug. You should not be able to pinch any slack in the harness.
- The car seat should be locked into place allowing less than 1" of movement at the belt path. Make sure the correct belt path is used.
- Tethers are recommended for forward facing seats. (If seat is installed with the lower anchors you **MUST** use the tether also)

### **Booster seats:**

- Preferably for kids who are at least 4 years old & who weigh at least 40lbs. *Highback or backless* booster seats available (Max. weight typically 80 or 100 lbs)



For more information about our programs please contact  
***St. Joseph's Children's Advocacy Center - phone (813)615-0589***  
***1401 A East Fowler Ave., Tampa, Florida 33612***

*Sources: \*NHTSA, National center for Statistics & Analysis, AAP News, \*\*SAFE KIDS Worldwide (Revised 01/2010)*

### **Booster seats - continued**

- Always use with a lap & shoulder seat belt. Never use a lap-only seat belt with a booster.
- Head support is very important. Make sure the child has head support from the booster or from the vehicle's head rest.

### **Seat Belts:**

- For most children who are at least 4' 9" tall. (generally 8 years old and up)
- Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat.
- Lap & shoulder seat belts provide the best protection. Don't let kids tuck the shoulder belt under an arm or behind their back.
- Remember everyone should Always Buckle Up, on every ride!!!

### **LATCH:** (Lower Anchors & Tethers for Children)

- LATCH usage has a weight limit - check your manuals (max. of typically 40-48lbs).
- Do not install a seat using the seat belt and lower anchors at the same time. (unless otherwise stated by manufacturer)



**Take a stand for children. We are!**