

CHILD SAFETY SEAT USE

Why are Child Safety Seats so important?

Child Safety Seats are 71% effective in reducing deaths for infants and 54% effective in reducing toddler deaths. *

CHILD SAFETY SEATS ARE ONLY EFFECTIVE IF USED CORRECTLY!

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign states that 80% of car seats are used wrong.

Hillsborough County was found to have 93% of car seats used wrong. **

To Register For A Child Safety Seat Class

In Tampa Call
(813) 870-4747
In Plant City Call
(813) 754-4444

Infants:

- Read your vehicle owner's manual AND the car seat instructions carefully!
- Children should ride rear facing as long as possible. At a minimum of both age 1 AND 20 pounds!
- If the child is too large for the infant carrier and is still under one year of age, a rear-facing convertible seat must be used. Check the seat labels for a seat that is 30-35 pounds rear-facing. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends rear facing as long as possible.
- Never put a rear-facing seat in front or near an airbag.
- Infant carrier seats are always to be REAR-FACING.
- Seat should be semi-reclined at no more than a 45-degree angle.
- Check the label and owner's manual for the seat. Most infant carrier seats have a maximum level of 20-22 pounds and 26-29 inches
- Place the child's harness straps through the slots at or below the shoulder level.
- Tighten the harness straps so they are snug, without slack on the baby. You should not be able to pinch any slack in the harness.
- Place the harness clip at armpit level unless instructions say differently.
- Lock the seat belt so the child safety seat moves no more than 1 inch from side to side.

Take a stand for children. We are!

Toddlers 20-40 Pounds

- Read your vehicle owner's manual AND the car seat instructions carefully!
- Toddlers ride forward facing and upright from age 1 and 20 pounds to 40 pounds. Check the labels to make sure you know the proper use for the seat.
- Place the harness straps at or **above** the shoulders, through the TOP SLOTS unless instructions say differently.
- Make sure correct belt path is used. Seat should have labels for forward-facing path.
- Tighten the harness straps so they are snug, without slack. You should not be able to pinch any slack in the harness.
- Place the harness clip at armpit level.
- Lock the seat belt so the child safety seat moves no more than 1 inch from side to side.
- Top tethers are recommended for forward facing seats.

Children 40-80 Pounds

- Read your vehicle owner's manual AND the car seat instructions carefully!
- A belt-positioning booster seat should be used for children 40-80 pounds.
- Use the lap/shoulder belt with a belt-positioning booster seat. Make sure the belt is snug across the hips and across the collarbone. Check to see if the seat has belt adjusters for a good fit.
- Some booster seats are equipped with a harness system and converts to a belt-positioning booster. Most harness systems are only for children up to 40 pounds. Check the instructions for your seat.
- Combination forward facing harness and booster seats provide a top tether up to 40 pounds however; always check the owner's manual for recommended use of top tether for booster without harness. Some do not recommend use.

LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children)

- All standard child safety seats and all vehicles manufactured after September 2002 must be equipped with LATCH. Be aware that LATCH has a weight limit for use (Typically allowing for a maximum weight of 40lbs or 48lbs - varies from vehicle to vehicle). Read your vehicle's owner manual and car seat instructions for proper installation



For more information about Car Seat Safety or other programs offered through St. Joseph's Children's Advocacy Center please call (813) 615-0589. 1401 A E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, Florida 33612

Sources: *NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, ** SAFE KIDS Tampa Coalition, National center for Statistics & Analysis, National SAFE KIDS Campaign



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