Choosing a Car Seat

Road injuries are the leading cause of unintentional deaths to children in the United States. Correctly used car seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71%!

Car seats are for providing safety on the go. When you arrive home, the child should be moved to a safe place to sleep or play.

Remember! Send in the car seat registration card or register online with the car seat manufacturer. You will receive alerts if the seat is recalled.

Car seats are not one-size-fits-all. The "BEST" car seat is the seat that:
1) fits your child
2) fits in your vehicle
3) that you will use correctly every single time.

Before you buy, visit *ultimatecarseatguide.org* to help you select the right type of seat for your child's age and development.
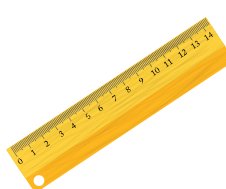
Only use a second-hand car seat if you know the seat has not been in a crash and all labels are present and readable.

Use the "Inch" test and the "Pinch" test. When installed and locked into the vehicle, a car seat should not move more than an inch when you tug the base where the seat belt goes through it. Read your car seat and vehicle owner's manuals for the best information.

Harnesses should be snug on your child where you cannot pinch any loose webbing at the shoulders, and the harness clip should be positioned across the chest at armpit level.

During the hot summer months set up a reminder system with caregivers so that children are not accidentally left in hot cars.

Consult a certified child passenger safety technician (CPST). To locate an inspection station near you visit *kansascarseatcheck. org.*

Every car seat has an expiration date—usually around six years. Find the label and double check to make sure your seat is still safe.

Discard an expired seat—remove the harnesses, padding and foam. Write "Expired" or "Unsafe to use" in permanent marker on it. Placing a whole car seat in the trash may entice others to take and use the seat, believing it is safe.

For manufacturer recalls, check *safercar.gov.* For more information visit *safekidskansas.org.*

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