Did you know?

- Effective July 1, 2001, all occupants of a vehicle 17 years of age and under must be buckled up.
- Children under 5 years of age and under 40 pounds are required to use an approved child safety seat in all seating positions. This is a primary offense, which means a driver can be stopped for having children or youth not restrained in their vehicle even without another violation.
- Drivers are responsible for all passengers 0-17 years old, which means drivers can be ticketed for not having children or youth properly restrained.
- All operators and passengers 14-17 years old are responsible for buckling up themselves, which means passengers can be ticketed too. The violation is a petty offense ($25.00 fine).
- No ticket will be issued for vehicles manufactured before 1966 that have not been equipped with seat belts.

Contact Us

The Child Safety Seat Distribution program is a program developed to keep kids safe by making sure they are in the best child safety seat for their height and weight until they are at least 4’9”.

To learn if you qualify for a child seat, contact a program in your region.

Region 1: Early Childhood Connections
2218 Jackson Blvd., Ste. #4, Rapid City, SD 57702
605.342.6464 or 1.888.999.7759

Region 2: The Right Turn, Inc.
115 E. Sioux Ave., Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.4755 or 1.866.206.8206

Region 3: Sanford Children’s CHILD Services
110 6th Ave. SE., Ste. 100, Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.226.5675 or 1.800.982.6404

Region 4: Family Resource Network, SDSU
PO Box 2218, Brookings, SD 57007
605.688.5730 or 1.800.354.8238

Region 5: Sanford Children’s CHILD Services
1115 W. 41st St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605.312.8370 or 1.800.235.5923

South Dakota Department of Social Services
1.800.227.3020

South Dakota Child Safety Seat Distribution Program

Contact Us
Car Seat Recommendations for Children

It’s important to remember the “best” child safety seat is the one that correctly fits the child, the vehicle and is used correctly every time.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE (YEARS)</th>
<th>Birth</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>REAR-FACING CAR SEAT</td>
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<td>FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT</td>
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<td>BOOSTER SEAT</td>
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<td>SEAT BELT</td>
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Types of Child Safety Restraints

**Rear-facing seats**: The best way to keep your child safe is to place them in a rear-facing seat for as long as possible. Both infant and convertible car seats are rear-facing. All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing seat until they are at least 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat’s manufacturer.

**Forward-facing seats**: Once your child has reached the weight and height limits for a rear-facing seat they are ready to move to a forward-facing seat. Convertible car seats provide the necessary harness to keep your child safe. Children should remain in a forward-facing seat until they have reached the weight and height limits.

**Booster seat**: Booster seats are for children who have exceeded the height and weight limits of a forward-facing seat with harness. To properly fit a seat belt, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should be snug across the shoulder and chest. The belt should not cross the neck or face.

**Seat belt**: Before getting rid of a booster seat, make sure the seat belt properly fits using the same guidelines mentioned above, but without the booster seat. NEVER put the belt under the child’s arm or behind their back. Remember, the safest place for your child to ride is in the back seat.