



## 10 Tips To Protect Your Child:

1. Never install a child seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active air bag.
2. Keep your child in a rear facing restraint until at least age 2.
3. Children should ride in the back seat until at least age 13.
4. Always secure a child with both lap and shoulder belts when using a booster seat.
5. Ensure that lap belts are worn across the thigh area; not across the belly.
6. Ensure that child seats are secured to the vehicle with either the safety belt or a specially designed LATCH system.
7. A correctly installed child seat will not move side to side more than one inch.
8. The safest position for a child is in the center of the rear seat if the child seat can be properly installed there.
9. Never use an infant seat forward facing.
10. Replace any child restraint that has been involved in a crash.

## New York State's Child Passenger Restraint Laws:

- Children up to the age of 4 must be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat that is attached to the vehicle by a seat belt or universal child restraint anchorage system (also known as a LATCH system).
- Children under age 4 but who weigh more than 40 pounds may be restrained in a booster seat with lap and shoulder belts.
- Children ages 4, 5, 6, or 7 must be properly secured in an appropriate child restraint system, one that meets the height and weight recommendations of the seat manufacturer.
- The vehicle's seat belt is **NOT** a child restraint system.
- Children riding in a booster seat **MUST** be secured with a lap belt *and shoulder belt*, never with the lap belt alone.
- From age 8 until age 16, children riding in the rear seat must be restrained by a safety belt.
- All front seat occupants **MUST** be buckled up regardless of age .
- When a vehicle is being operated by a driver with a Learner's Permit or Junior Driver's License (Class DJ), in addition to the above, all occupants over age 16 must be restrained by a safety belt when riding in the front or rear seat.



**State  
Police**  
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*Provided by the New York State Police in partnership with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee with funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*

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# Child Passenger Safety

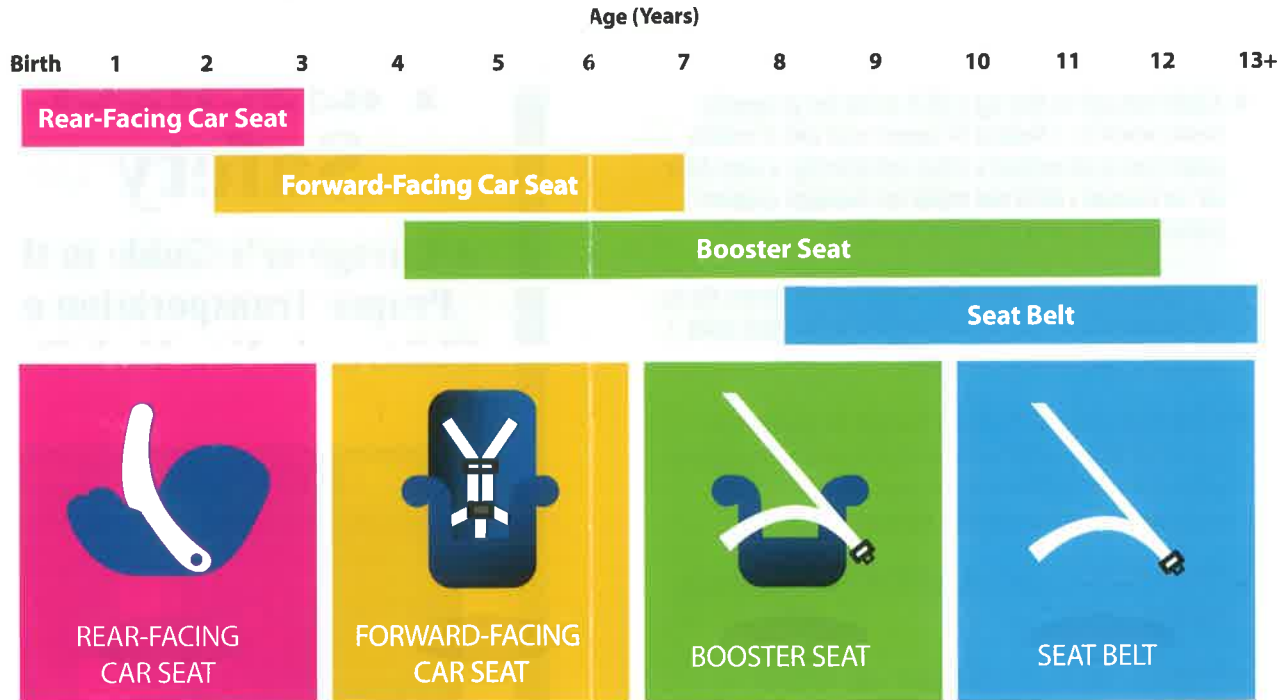
## A Caregiver's Guide to the Proper Transportation of Children in New York State



**Q: What is the best seat for my child?**

**A: The one that fits your child and your vehicle and is installed properly every trip, every time.**

# Child Safety Restraint Recommendations for Parents



Information Derived from 

## Rear Facing Car Seat

Keep your child rear facing as long as possible and at least until age 2.\* Keep them rear facing until they exceed the height and/or weight recommended by the seat manufacturer.

\* As recommended by the American Association of Pediatrics

## Forward Facing Car Seat

Keep your child in a forward facing restraint with a harness and tether until he/she reaches the maximum height or weight for the seat as recommended by the seat manufacturer.

## Booster Seat

Once your child outgrows the forward facing car seat, use a booster seat until they fit in a seat belt properly. The booster seat raises the child to allow the seat belt fit as stated below.

## Seat Belt

A seat belt fits properly when the child's back is against the seat back, their legs are bent comfortably over the seat edge, and the shoulder harness does not lie across the neck or face. Generally, they should be used only by persons at least 4 feet 9 inches tall and 100 pounds.



## Did you know...

- Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death among children?
- Approximately 9 out of 10 child seats are installed incorrectly?
- A properly installed child restraint reduces the risk of death by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers?
- Proper child restraint installation requires compatibility of 3 things:
  - the child
  - the seat
  - the vehicle.

## Make Sure You're Doing it Right

The New York State Police, in conjunction with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, provides child restraint inspections and installation training for caregivers throughout the state. To have your vehicle and child restraint inspected by a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, contact your nearest State Police Barracks or visit:

[troopers.ny.gov](http://troopers.ny.gov)  
or  
[safeNY.ny.gov](http://safeNY.ny.gov)