

Myth:

Parent's usually install child safety seats correctly.

Fact:

As many as 80 percent of the child car seats in use today are installed incorrectly. *

Solution:

Always read your child safety seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual for proper use and installation information.

*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- Do not use a car seat that has been involved in a crash. There may be unseen damage that will make the seat unsafe.
- Avoid using a second-hand car seat. The seat may have been involved in a crash. It may have missing parts and instructions. It may be missing the labels that tell you if the seat is safe and has not been recalled.

For more information about proper use and installation of your child's safety seats and airbag on/off switches, contact the manufacturer, or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at 888-DASH-2-DOT (888/327-4236) or visit their Web site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Child Passenger Safety



Buckle Children Ages 12 and Under in the Back Seat

What is the safest car seat for my child?

One that properly fits your:

- Child's age and size.
- Vehicle — the car seat should not move more than one inch from side to side or toward the front of the vehicle.

Car seats to avoid:

- Avoid using a car seat that is more than six years old.



This information provided by:

The Mesa Police Department
Traffic Unit
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There are **four types** of **safety seats** and **restraints** for children. Make sure you **always follow the guidelines** that apply to **your child's age** and **size**.

Rear-Facing Car Seats

Infants should ride in rear-facing car seats until they are at least one year old **AND** weigh at least 20 pounds. This offers the best protection for the infant's neck.

- Keep harness straps snug and fasten harness clip at armpit level.
- Route harness straps in lower harness slots at or below shoulder level.
- Recline a rear-facing seat 45 degrees.
- If your child outgrows the infant seat before his or her first birthday, choose a convertible seat that holds a heavier baby and place it rear-facing.

Forward-Facing Car Seats

For children more than one year old **AND** between 20 and 40 pounds.

- Keep harness straps snug and fasten harness clip at armpit level.
- Route harness straps in top slots at or above shoulder level.
- Place forward-facing car seat in upright position.
- Use a tether strap. A tether is a strap that attaches the top of the car seat to an anchor point in the vehicle. If your car does not have



a tether anchor installed, your dealer can install one. It helps prevent a child's head from moving too far forward in a crash. For more information, refer to your vehicle's owner's manual.

Booster Seats

All children more than 40 pounds who have outgrown child safety seats should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are big enough to fit properly in an adult seat belt — usually about eight years old, or four feet nine inches tall.

- A booster seat makes the lap and shoulder belts fit correctly, low over upper thighs/hips and snug over the shoulder and across the chest.
- Remember to use both lap and shoulder belts when the child is in a booster seat.
- If only lap belts are available in the back seat, contact the auto dealership about installing shoulder belts.

Safety Belts

Four children who are over eight years old or who are at least four feet nine inches tall.

- Lap and shoulder belts should fit correctly — low over upper thighs/hips and snug over the shoulder.
- Child must be tall enough to sit with knees bent over edge of seat and feet on the floor without slouching.
- **NEVER** put shoulder belt under a child's arm or behind the back.

A Special Note About Air Bags

While air bags provide safety benefits to adults, improperly or unbuckled children can be killed or seriously injured when they sit too close to the air bag.

- **NEVER** place a rear-facing infant in front of a passenger air bag.
- Children should not be placed next to active side air bags unless the manufacturer states that it is safe.
- If you must transport a child in the front seat of a vehicle with an active air bag, contact the NHTSA for permission to install an on/off switch to deactivate the bag.

