

KNOWLEDGE SAVES LIVES

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13. While you may already know the safest place for your youngest passengers is in the back seat—in a car seat, booster seat or seat belt—correctly choosing and using the right restraint may not be as simple as you think.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Every year, on average, more than a third of all kids under 13 killed in car crashes are not properly buckled up or in a car seat.
- Using car seats reduces the chance of infant and toddler fatalities by 71% and 54%, respectively.
- Every year, on average, more than 100,000 children under the age of 13 are injured in traffic crashes involving cars, SUVs, vans, and pickups.



IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.NHTSA.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration



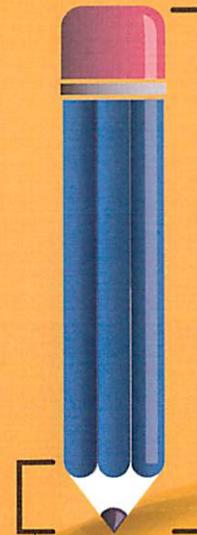
NHTSA

Child Car
Safety

BE A KNOW-IT-ALL!

You know a lot about what's best for your child, but parents who *really* know it all, know how to correctly use the right seat for their child's age and size. According to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, **most kids are not as secure in the car** as they should be because their car seats and/or booster seats are not being used correctly.

KNOW FOR SURE IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT.



THE NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
**WHO
THINK**
THEY HAVE
THEIR CHILD
IN THE RIGHT
SEAT.

THE ONES
**WHO
ACTUALLY
DO.**

- **Read the manufacturer's instructions** before putting your child in a car seat. Pay close attention to how you adjust the car seat's harness for a proper fit.
 - **Stand firm** when your child protests using a car seat, booster seat or seat belt.
 - **Ages 4-7:** Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until s/he reaches the car seat manufacturer's allowed height or weight limit. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat, it's time for a booster seat—but still in the back seat.
 - **Ages 8-12:** Keep your child in a booster seat until s/he is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a proper seat belt fit, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach; also, the shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest, not the neck or face.
- *Remember:** Your child should still ride in the back seat at least through age 12 because it's safer there.

Visit www.nhtsa.gov/therightseat
to be sure your child is fully protected!