



You are the love of my life

I want to watch my child grow up healthy and happy. Because I am my child's first and most important teacher I will

- Buckle up my child correctly on every ride.
- Buckle up myself because my child needs me.
- Teach my child about riding safely in a vehicle.
- Be a safe role model for my child.
- Remind relatives and other caregivers to always buckle up my child correctly.*

Always buckle up your child correctly on every ride and be sure to buckle up yourself, too!

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Children should ride in the back seat because



- It is the safest part of the car in case of a crash.
- They are less likely to disturb the driver.
- Air bags can kill children, especially babies.*

For safety, children should always ride in the back seat of the car. Air bags can kill children, especially babies.

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I know it is very important to protect my family, so I will always take one minute to check that everyone is buckled up correctly in the proper type of seat every time my family gets in the car.



Use this chart to determine what kind of safety seat your child should ride in.

	Infants	Toddlers	Young Children
Age/Weight	Birth to 1 year at least 20-22 lbs.	Over 1 year and over 20 lbs. - 40 lbs.	Over 40 lbs. Ages 4-8, unless 4'9"
Type of Seat	Infant only or rear-facing convertible	Convertible/forward-facing	Belt-positioning booster seat
Seat Position	Rear-facing only	Forward-facing	Forward-facing
Always Make Sure	Children to 1 year and at least 20 lbs in rear-facing seats. Harness straps at or below shoulder level.	Harness straps should be at or above shoulder level. Most seats require top slot for forward-facing.	Belt positioning booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belt. Make sure the lap belt fits low and tight across the lap/upper thigh area and the shoulder belt fits snug crossing the chest and shoulder to avoid abdominal injuries.
Warning	All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat.		

For more information, call **1-888-327-4236**, contact your local police or fire department, or visit www.mass.gov/ghsb (Click on 'Programs'), or www.nhtsa.dot.gov



Safety Seat Recalls

Just like cars and other products, a car safety seat may be "recalled" because of a defect which could injure your child.

- Register your new car seat.
- If your seat is recalled, be sure to get it fixed right away.
- If you are not sure if your seat has been recalled, call the D.O.T. Safety Hotline: **1-888-327-4236**.
- Have the seat in front of you when you call the Hotline.

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Manufacturer's Name: _____

Model Number/Name: _____

Manufacture Date: _____



Air bag Safety

An infant or child riding in the front seat can be seriously injured or killed by the air bag.

- ☀ An air bag is not a soft pillow.
- ☀ The force of an air bag can hurt people who are too close to it.
- ☀ Infants in rear-facing child safety seats **MUST NEVER** ride in the front seat.
- ☀ **Children 12 and under should ride buckled up in the rear seat.**

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Safety Seats Save Lives

Motor vehicle crashes pose a great risk for children. Eight children ages 0 to 12 were killed and approximately 500 were injured in car crashes in Massachusetts in 1999.

When properly installed, child safety seats reduce the risk of death in a motor vehicle crash by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers. Safety belts increase the chance of surviving a crash by 45%.



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Child Passenger Safety Laws in Massachusetts

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Children must ride properly secured in child safety seats until they are both 5 years old and weigh over 40 pounds. Children who weigh over 40 pounds, but are under 5, must ride in booster seats.

Children older than 5 and over 40 pounds must be properly restrained. Children 12 and older must wear a safety belt as required by the Massachusetts Safety Belt Law.

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Drivers will be fined \$25 for each child not wearing a safety belt. A police officer may stop your motor vehicle if a child 12 and under is not properly restrained.



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