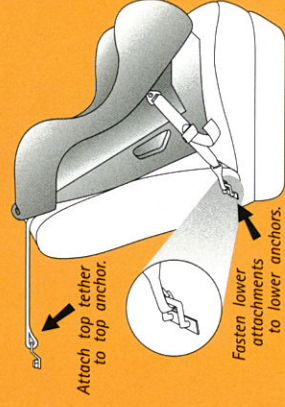


Lower Anchors and Tethers

- LATCH is a new system that may make child safety seat installation easier – without using seat belts. LATCH is required on most child safety seats and vehicles manufactured after September 1, 2002.
- LATCH is not required for booster seats, car beds and vests.
- Attachments on a LATCH-equipped child safety seat fasten to anchors in a LATCH-equipped vehicle.
- Most LATCH-equipped vehicles have anchors in the right and left rear seat positions. If the center seat doesn't have anchors, you can still install your child safety seat using a seatbelt.
- If your vehicle isn't LATCH-equipped, use the seat belt and, if available, a top tether.



Eight tips for a safely buckled up trip:

- **BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR CHILD.**
Buckle up every single time – even on short trips.
- Always read and follow your child safety seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual when installing a child safety seat.
- Use child safety seats or booster seats until the adult lap and shoulder belt fits your child correctly.
- **ALWAYS** put children under 13 in the back seat.
- Never place more than one person in the same safety belt.
- Never hold a child on your lap in a vehicle – in a crash, the child can be ripped from your arms and crushed.
- Never let a child push a shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back.
- Never allow a child under 18 to ride in the open bed of a pickup truck. It's illegal in Oregon – and it's often deadly.

Which seat is right for my child?

Child Safety Seats

The best seat for your child is one that fits your child's size, is correctly installed, and is used properly every time you drive. There are two main things to remember when installing a child safety seat:

- Buckle the child snugly into the seat's harness.
- Buckle the seat as tightly as possible into your vehicle.

Oregon Law: All children who weigh 40 pounds or less must ride in a child safety system designed for kids this size. Infants must ride in rear-facing seats until they are 1 year old and weigh more than 20 pounds.

REAR-FACING INFANT SEAT



For infants until they are 1 year old and weigh more than 20 pounds.

- Never put a rear-facing infant seat in the front seat of a vehicle with air bags.

FORWARD-FACING CHILD SAFETY SEAT



For kids 1 or older and between 20 and 40 pounds.

- Make sure the forward-facing child safety seat is placed in an upright position.

BOOSTER SEATS



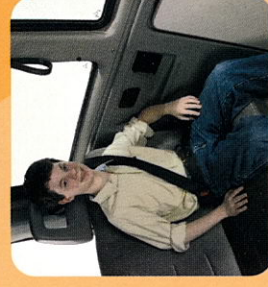
For children who have exceeded the height or weight limit for their forward-facing seat.

- Secure with the car's lap and shoulder belts.
- Never use a booster seat with just a lap belt.

Oregon Law: All children weighing more than 40 pounds must ride buckled in a booster seat or system that raises them up so the adult safety belt fits properly. Children must continue to use a booster seat until they are at least 8 years old or 4'9" tall.

Exemption: Children are exempt when the rear seats of the vehicles they are riding in have lap belts only. In such case, children must be secured by the lap belts.

LAP AND SHOULDER BELTS



For kids who are at least 8 years old or 4'9" tall.

- Make sure your children are really big enough for adult safety belts before you move them out of booster seats. Many children are at risk because they are moved to an adult safety belt too soon.

Oregon Law: Children who are at least 8 years old or 4'9" tall may graduate to an adult safety belt, but only if it fits properly.

When is it safe for a child to ride without a booster seat?

An adult safety belt will only fit correctly when:

- The child can sit all the way back against the seat of the vehicle with knees bent comfortably over the edge of the vehicle's seat.
- The lap belt fits low, across the thighs — never across the stomach.
- The shoulder belt fits flat across the collarbone and crosses the child's chest. The shoulder belt should never be across the neck.
- The child can sit like this for the whole trip.

Children usually do not fit into an adult safety belt until they are 4'9". If an adult safety belt does not fit properly, children should continue to use booster seats, even if they are older than age 8.

Why can't children just use safety belts?

Safety belts are designed to fit adults — not kids. In a crash, a child can slip out of an adult safety belt and can even be injured by a poorly fitting safety belt. Kids who aren't buckled up at all are in the most danger. The right type of safety seat or booster seat for your child's size dramatically reduces their risk of injury in a crash. In Oregon, safety seats and booster seats are required by law.

Need more help? Call the experts.

The ACTS Oregon Child Safety Seat Resource Center is the state's central source of information and assistance for child passenger safety education and training. The center trains individuals across the state in correct safety seat installation and works with local organizations to provide discounted safety and booster seats for qualifying families. For more information on Oregon law, safety seat installation tips or to locate a child safety seat checkup event, call the **Child Safety Seat Resource Center** at 503-643-5620 in Portland or toll-free statewide at 1-800-772-1315. Or visit www.childsafetyseat.org.



www.childsafetyseat.org
1-800-772-1315



Buckle Up.
The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety — ODOT



Give your kids
a safe ride
in the right seat.