**STEP 1** Infants

**What You Need to Know**

Use a rear-facing car seat until your child is at least age 1 and 20 lbs. Use your rear-facing car seat longer if the seat has higher weight and height limits.

Take the next step to a forward-facing car seat when your child is at least one year old and you answer "yes" to either question:

- Does your child exceed the car seat's rear-facing height and weight limits?
- Is your child's head within one inch of the car seat top?

**STEP 2** Toddlers

**What You Need to Know**

Use a forward-facing car seat (convertible or combo seat) until the harness no longer fits.

Take the next step to a booster seat when you answer "yes" to any of these questions:

- Does your child exceed the car seat's height or weight limits?
- Are your child's shoulders above the car seat's top harness slots?
- Are the tops of your child's ears above the top of the car seat?

**STEP 3** Boosters

**What You Need to Know**

Use a booster seat with the vehicle lap and shoulder safety belts until your child passes the Safety Belt Fit Test.

Vehicle safety belts are designed to fit an average-sized adult. Children usually need a booster until they are about 4 feet 9 inches tall and weigh between 80 and 100 pounds to get the best protection from a safety belt. Take the next step to the safety belt when you answer "yes" to these questions:

- Does your child exceed the booster seat's height or weight limits?

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**Call for an appointment to have your child's car seat checked** (203) 389-3440
What You Need to Know

Once your child passes the Safety Belt Fit Test, require him or her to use safety belts in a back seat on every ride, whether or not you are there.

A lap and shoulder belt provides the best protection to your child and helps to maintain the correct seating position.

Connecticut state law requires:

- Car seat or booster seat restraint systems will be federally approved
- Younger than 1 year or less than 20 pounds shall be in a rear-facing restraint system;
- Ages 1 through 6 years who is less than 60 pounds in a child restraint system (booster seats may only be used in a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt)
- Lap and shoulder belts are permissible for children 7 through 15 years and 60+ pounds

80% of child restraints are used incorrectly.
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

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Safe Kids USA

Child Passenger Safety