

# Which SEAT is RIGHT for you?

Choose the best protection  
for your child based on their  
age, height and weight by  
following the steps inside.



800-672-4527  
[www.buckleupnc.org](http://www.buckleupnc.org)

NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**INSURANCE**

## STEP 1

### REAR-FACING SEATS



Use rear-facing car seats as long as possible, but at least until a child is 2 years old or until he or she reaches the upper weight or height limit allowed by the child seat's manufacturer.\* Check to be sure...

- The child sits facing the back of the car in the car seat.
- The car seat is reclined according to the manufacturer's instructions.

#### Rear-facing only car seats

- Should never face toward the front of the car.
- Usually have removable bases and carrying handles for convenience.

#### Convertible car seats

- Use rear-facing until the child reaches the maximum height or weight allowed by the manufacturer. Then use forward-facing.
- Can often be used rear-facing for children up to 40 or 45 pounds, depending on the model.

**For more information, visit [www.buckleupnc.org](http://www.buckleupnc.org) or call the NC Child Passenger Safety Resource Center at 800-672-4527.**

## STEP 2

### FORWARD-FACING SEATS

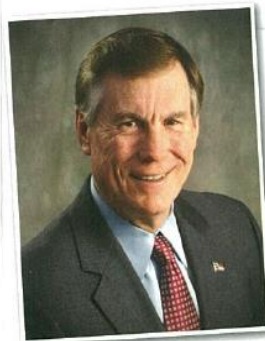


When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (by weight or height, whichever comes first), they should ride in forward-facing car seats with harnesses until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the seat or harness. The upper limits can range from 40 to 90 pounds, depending on the model. Check to be sure...

- The top of the child's ears are below the top of the car seat.
- The top tether strap is hooked to a designated tether anchor and pulled snug to remove slack.

## NORTH CAROLINA LAW REQUIRES ALL

**Children are required to use a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 80 pounds (whichever comes first). The seat must be used on its own. Keep children under 13 years old in the back seat.**



As your State Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner, I make it my promise to every child across North Carolina that we will do the same. It's the law and it counts.

— Insurance Commissioner Mike C.

## STEP 3

### BOOSTER SEATS



Once children outgrow the harness of their forward facing seats (by weight or height, whichever comes first), they should ride in booster seats until the seat belt fits properly on its own.\* Check to be sure...

- The child always rides in a booster seat using a seat belt with both lap and shoulder belts.
- The lap belt sits low on the child's hips, not on the stomach.
- The shoulder belt crosses over the shoulder and collar bone, not on the neck, under the arm or behind the back.
- The seat belt is snug, lays flat and is comfortable on the child.

## VEHICLE PASSENGERS TO BUCKLE UP

**Booster seat until they are at least 8 years old. And the seat belt must fit properly when they are age 13 in a rear seat of the vehicle.**

As State Commissioner, I promise to make North Carolina the safest state in the South. As State Chair of Safe Kids North Carolina, I make that my top priority. Please take a moment to review this child restraint laws and remember to buckle up your car and encourage other parents and caregivers to do the same. It can save a life.

Thank you,  
Governor Roy Cooper

## STEP 4

### SEAT BELTS



Children should stay in booster seats until they are large enough for the lap and shoulder seat belts to fit properly. This usually occurs when a child is between 8 and 12 years old. If the belts do not fit properly, continue to use a booster seat. Check to be sure...

- The child always uses a seat belt with both lap and shoulder belts.
- The lap belts sits low on the child's hips, not the stomach.
- The shoulder belt crosses over the shoulder and collar bones, not on the neck, under the arm or behind the back.
- The child's back fits firmly against the seat back when the knees are bent at the front edge of the seat, and that the child can sit this way for the whole ride.
- The seat belt is snug, lays flat and is comfortable on the child.

[www.ncsafekids.org](http://www.ncsafekids.org) • [www.clickitorticket.com](http://www.clickitorticket.com)

**SAFE  
K:IDS**  
NORTH CAROLINA

**CLICK IT  
OR TICKET.**

# IMPORTANT

## INFORMATION

Check to be sure...

- The child is within the age, height and weight limits specified by the car seat's manufacturer.
- The harness straps are in the right set of slots according to the manufacturer's instructions and are snug enough that you can't pinch a loop in the strap at the collar bone after it has been buckled.
- The chest clip is at armpit level.
- The car seat is secured tightly in the car and doesn't move more than 1 inch when you pull on it where the seat belt goes through it.
- The car seat is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions using either the vehicle's seat belt or LATCH system. Do not use both unless allowed by the car seat AND vehicle manufacturers' instructions.

*\* Recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.*

[ticket.org](http://ticket.org) • [www.ncdoi.com/osfm](http://www.ncdoi.com/osfm)



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OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL