

4 Steps to Safety

1

Face the Rear

Children should ride in rear-facing child seats until they reach the height or weight limits of a rear-facing convertible seat – at least until they are 12 months old and weigh 20 pounds. Rear-facing child seats provide the best protection for the head, neck and spinal cord.



2

Face the Front

Children should ride in front-facing child seats with harnesses until they reach the height or weight limits of the harnesses. Most models can be used up to 40 pounds, but a few go to 65 pounds or more. Front-facing harnesses spread force over wide areas of small bodies.



3

Booster Seat

Children should ride in booster seats used with lap and shoulder belts, until the seat belts alone fit correctly. Depending on the child and the vehicle, this usually occurs between ages 8 and 11. Booster seats help belts stay on strong body parts that don't injure as easily.



4

Seat Belt

Seat belts fit if a child can sit all the way back with knees bent naturally over the seat edge. The lap belt must stay snug on the leg or hip bones, with the shoulder belt against the chest and shoulder. Seat belts distribute force and keep people in protected space.



Healthy Mothers,
Healthy Babies
The Montana Coalition

- ✓ No one is safe until everyone is buckled up
- ✓ Kids ride in a back seat until age 13
- ✓ Follow vehicle and child restraint instructions
- ✓ Montana law requires all passengers to be properly restrained and children to ride in child restraints until at least 6-years-old and 60 pounds

For more information or assistance, call 800-421-6667 or visit www.hmhb-mt.org