

Keep Everyone Safe on the Road!

To provide as much protection as possible, child seats and seat belts need to be used correctly. Instructions for your specific child seat and vehicle must be followed. And here is a quick checklist, to get started:

Is everybody buckled up?

- ✓ No one is safe unless *everyone* in the vehicle is using a child seat or seat belt.

Am I using the right type of child seat or seat belt for each person?

- ✓ Read and follow the 4 Steps to Safety, on the other side of this sheet.
- ✓ Check the child seat instructions for height and weight limits (if you don't have the instructions, contact the manufacturer for a free copy).

Is each child seat in good condition?

- ✓ The child seat has never been in a crash. For very minor crashes, check the manufacturer instructions.
- ✓ The child seat is not past its expiration date (generally 6 years from the date of manufacture).
- ✓ The child seat has no visible cracks, loose parts or damaged harnesses.
- ✓ The child seat is not recalled, or any recalls have been fixed (if you are unsure, call the manufacturer).
- ✓ All parts are present and in good working condition.

Is each child's location the best choice?

- ✓ Children under 13 are riding in a rear vehicle seat. A child in front is 40% more likely to be injured.
- ✓ I *never* place child in a rear-facing child seat near an active frontal air bag. It can be deadly!

Is each child safety seat securely attached to the vehicle?

- ✓ The seat belt or LATCH strap is through the *correct* area of the child seat (check instructions).
- ✓ The seat belt or lower LATCH strap is tightly locking the child seat in place (if not, check instructions).
- ✓ If using the LATCH strap, its connectors are attached to the correct vehicle anchors (check instructions).
- ✓ The child seat does not move more than 1" toward the front or side of the vehicle, when I pull on it.
- ✓ The top tether strap is attached to the correct anchor and snug (only for front facing, with most models).

Are the child safety seat harnesses correct?

- ✓ The shoulder harnesses are at the right height (at or slightly below the shoulder height of a *rear-facing child*; at or slightly above the shoulder height of a *front-facing child*).
- ✓ The harness is snug. If I try to pinch harness fabric between my fingers, my fingers slide off.
- ✓ The chest clip is used correctly. It is attached to both harnesses and is on the center of the child's chest.

Are the seat belts *properly worn and adjusted*?

- ✓ Booster seats are being used with lap *and* shoulder belts.
- ✓ The back of the booster seat (or the passenger's back) is against the vehicle seat back.
- ✓ Knees bend naturally over the edge of the booster seat or vehicle seat.
- ✓ The lap belt stays snug on the leg or hip bones
- ✓ The shoulder belt stays against the chest and shoulder.

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