

# South Carolina Child Passenger Safety

When choosing a car seat, consider the child's age, weight, height, and developmental levels.  
Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

## REAR-FACING CAR SEAT



An **infant** or **child younger than 2 years** must be properly secured in a **rear-facing** child passenger restraint system in the **rear** passenger seat of the vehicle.

Use this method until the child **exceeds** the height or weight limit allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

## FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT



A child **at least 2 years old** (or younger who has **outgrown** the manufacturer's height or weight limits for a rear-facing car seat) must be secured in a **forward-facing** safety seat with a harness in a rear passenger seat.

Use this method until the child **exceeds** the highest height or weight requirements of the forward-facing car seat.

## BOOSTER SEAT



A child **at least 4 years old** who has outgrown the forward-facing child safety seat must be secured by a **belt-positioning booster** seat in the rear seat. Use this method until the child can meet the height and fit requirements for an adult safety seat belt.

The belt-positioning booster seat **must** be used with lap and shoulder belts.

## SEAT BELT



A child **at least 8 years old**, or at least 57 inches (4'9") tall, may be restrained by an **adult safety belt** if the child can be secured properly by the belt.

**A child is properly secured by an adult safety seat belt if:**

- (a) the lap belt fits across the child's thighs and hips and not across the abdomen;
- (b) the shoulder belt crosses the center of the child's chest and not the neck; and
- (c) the child is able to sit with their back straight against the vehicle seat back cushion with their knees bent over the vehicle's seat edge without slouching.

## Installation Tips:

- A **properly installed** car seat will **not** move more than an inch. To test it, shake the car seat at the base, where secured.
- Make sure the harness is tightly buckled. With the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at the child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, the harness is correctly tightened.

To find an Inspection Station near you, visit:  
[Child Passenger Safety Inspection Stations | SCDHEC](#)