

Golden Rules of Car Seats

Always secure your child in a car seat when you drive anywhere. Most collisions occur “just around the corner” Vehicles are not a child-friendly zone, you have to make them so with car seats.

Keep your child in the correct seat for as long as possible, but no longer. It is also dangerous to keep your child in a car seat that they have outgrown.

A child outgrows their car seat when they have reached the upper weight, height or age limit of the seat.

Tighten the harness just right. The harness must fit snug – you must be able to fit your hand in between your child’s tummy and the buckle.

Rear face your child till at least 13kg or 15 months and thereafter for as long as you can wing it.

The shoulder straps of the harness must go over and below the shoulder for rear facing. At shoulder height or slightly above the shoulder is good for forward facing.

Be the driver you want your children to be. Drive lovingly.

Children under the age of 13 should ride in the back seat.

Never use a car seat where there are air bags. Airbags deploy at 350km/h and can seriously injure your child and even cause death.

Always install your car seat as per the directions in the manual.



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Car Seats for Kids



WheelWellZA

What we do

Select your own car seat here for an affordable donation.

We will clean your car seats and give it a new lease on life.

We advise on the correct choice, installation and use of car seats.

We rent out car seats to keep our young visitors safe.

We work with like-minded partners towards road safety for our children.



Wheel Well

FOR CHILDREN IN ROAD SAFETY

Car Seat 101



Infant Seats

- Group 0 or 0+
- Designed for babies from birth to 10kg or 13kg or 15 months.
- Always install a baby seat rear facing.
- Blue markers indicate installation with a seat belt – blue is for babies.
- Not designed for long periods of sleep.
- Do not place your baby in this seat wrapped in a blanket, rather place a blanket over the whole seat.
- Baby seats can be taken out of the vehicle to carry your child in and can double up as a rocker or feeding chair.
- Never leave your child unattended in a car seat.

At birth, a baby's skull and spine configuration are not fully developed. The soft fontanel is something we are all familiar with. The back and the flat angle of the seat is designed to protect baby's spine and neck during a collision.

Toddler Seats

- Group 1
- Designed for toddlers from 9kg to 18kg, 105cm tall or 4 years old.
- The minimum weight is for tall skinny kids that have outgrown the Infant Seat in height before they have reached the maximum weight.
- Your child should be able to sit strong by now and will enjoy the more upright position. They want to see where you are going and interact with their world.
- Rear facing is first prize if your vehicle has space and your seat belt is long enough, forward facing after 15 months is acceptable.
- Toddler seats recline for comfort when sleeping.
- Red markers indicate forward facing installation – Red is for rascals
- Toddler seats remain installed in the vehicle

Test yourself for seat belt readiness...

- Can you sit with your hips against the back of the seat?
- Do your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
- Does the belt cross the center of your shoulder and is the lap belt low, touching the tops of your legs?
- Can you sit like this the entire trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you need to keep using your booster.

Booster Seats

- Group 2 and 3
- Designed for children from 18 kg, 4 years old, or an absolute minimum of 15 kg if you have a tall skinny child.
- Your child is now strong enough to sit with a seatbelt, but not tall enough yet.
- Booster seats raise your child and bring the seat belt down to their shoulder. The shoulder belt must pass over the middle of their shoulder, away from the neck and across the chest. The lap belt must go over the lap and hips – never across the tummy.
- Never use a booster seat with only a lap belt.
- Red markings indicate where the seat belt goes. Never allow your child to put the shoulder belt behind their backs or under their arm – very dangerous!
- The back of a good booster seat adjusts up with the growth of your child.
- Once they have outgrown the highest adjustment of the height adjustable booster seat, your child should sit on a "bum" booster until they are 1.5m tall.

