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Car Seat Safety Tips For Your Baby

By John Foley

Car seat safety tips for your baby

Do you know that according to a report 80% of kids are not properly seated in the car seat and thus many children get unnecessarily injured in car accidents. Still many of us do not bother about using safe car seats for our children. So let us follow some basic tips so that we can avoid our babies from getting involved in an accident.

The biggest mistake that you parents often commit, is not to bother whether the seat is right for your child's age and whether he is facing the right direction.

- a) Always remember infants should be in a rear facing infant only seat or convertible seat until they are 1 year old and weigh twenty pounds. Kids whose weight remains less than 20 pounds even after 1 year should also continue to face backwards.
- b) When a child is above 1 year in age and weighs more than 20 pounds then he/she can be seated in a forward facing car seat, until they are 40 pounds of weight. Children over forty pounds should be placed into a belt positioning booster seat and they should usually stay in it until they are at least 8 years old.
- c) Parents always remember not to use the car's regular seat belts for your child until they fit correctly when your child is about 80 pounds and is 4ft 9 inches tall. Your child should not use regular seat belts until the shoulder strap fits across his shoulder and not his neck, and the lap belt fits across his hips and not his stomach.
- d) You should not allow your child to sit in the front seat until he/she is more than 12 years of age
- e) Remember! Do not use seat, which has its harness straps too loose or in the wrong position, always lock the seat belt properly with a locking clip, secure the seat belt correctly and do not place an infant seat in the way of an air bag.
- f) Always make sure that the harness chest clip of the infant seat is positioned at your child's armpit level, the harness straps are straight, the rear-facing straps are positioned at or a bit below your child's shoulders, the seat is reclined at about a 45 degree angle and never ever place an infant in a rear-facing child restraint in the front seat of a car.
- g) When you are using a rear facing convertible seat, see carefully whether the harness straps are positioned at or a bit below your child's shoulders, the harness chest clip is at the armpit level, the harness straps are straight and the seat is reclined at a 45-degree angle

Car Seat Safety Tips For Your Baby

h) While using a forward facing convertible seat, watch out that the harness straps are positioned at or slightly above your child's shoulder, the straps are straight and the harness chest clip's position is around your child's mid-chest or armpit area.

i) You can only use a forward facing combination seat if the harness straps are positioned at, or slightly above, your child's shoulders and you must stop using a shield booster when your child is 40 pounds.

j) If you want to use a belt-positioning booster seat, first make sure that you are using the lap/shoulder belt combination with a belt-positioning booster. Never use just a lap belt. Secondly, the shoulder belt must rest across the chest and thirdly the lap-belt should remain across the lap or upper thigh area and not across the stomach

Finally, do not use a car seat that: a) was involved in a crash, b) more than 10 years old, c) does not have a label with its date of manufacturing, d) does not have instructions, e) has a crack in its frame or has some part missing.

Always follow these instructions to ensure your baby's safety in the car.

Article Written By J. Foley

http://travelguy.typepad.com/your_baby

Child Car Safety Seats – Your Options

By Ciara McGrath

Before you take your new baby home in your car you will need to buy a suitable car safety seat.

Seats for new born infants must be rear facing for safety. This is because a baby younger than about 12 months old does not have neck muscles that are strong enough to support the head. When a car stops suddenly the back rest of a rear facing child seat is designed to support your baby's head and helps prevent serious injury.

In some European countries a rear facing child seat may be used in the front passenger seat, but in most US states and Canada it must be mounted on the rear seat. A front facing child seat must never be used in a front seat where air bags are fitted.

Many safety seat manufacturers produce seats that can be used in forward or rear facing positions. These can be turned around once your baby is about a year old.

Another popular alternative is to buy a baby car seat that doubles as a baby carrier. These seats have a fold out handle that makes it easy to carry your baby into the house. You can strap your baby into the seat in the house, especially convenient in bad weather, and just mount the seat using the car safety seat or the Latch system, if that is fitted in your vehicle. Consult your vehicle manual to see if the Latch system is fitted to it.

If you are looking to buy a child safety seat that has been used you need to check to see if it has been subject to a recall. Many older seats do not meet the most recent safety regulations. Additionally, if the

Car Seat Safety Tips For Your Baby

seat has been involved in a major accident the integral harness may have stretched and no longer be safe. There is no obvious way of checking that the harness is in its original condition.

Child safety seats are expensive items, that you will only need for a short time, but you cannot really skimp on your child's safety.

Find more help at

<http://www.baby-carseat.info>

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Ciara McGrath has four teenage daughters. She travels widely. Find more help at

<http://www.baby-carriers.info>

,

<http://www.baby-carseat.info>

and

<http://www.baby-carseats.info>



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