



Prevent Think Life Safety

For additional information, call 503-805-8482

Motor Vehicle Safety For Children

Motor vehicle injuries are by far the leading cause of unintentional injury/death for kids age 14 and under. Much of the injury is due to younger children who are not properly secured in car seats or booster seats. The rules have been confusing over the years but have become easier, as have car seats and booster seats themselves.

While laws can vary from state to state, typical requirements are below:

- Children must be restrained in an approved child safety seat until they weigh 40 pounds
- Infants must ride in a rear facing seat until age 2.
- Child passengers over 40 pounds or who reach the upper weight limit of their car seat's harness system must be restrained in a booster seat until they are 4'9" tall OR 8 years old.
- Seat Belts – Children over 8 years old or children over 4 feet 9 inches in height can utilize a normal automobile seat belt system.
- Seat Belts Save Lives – Enough said.
- Adults are not exempt from the importance of seat belts.
- Use caution when driving a car and kids are nearby. Blind spots around cars can result in a child being run over.
- Children riding in the open bed of a pickup is likely illegal and not recommended.
- Follow teen driving laws carefully to best prepare young people for the responsibility of driving.
- Use of devices such as cell phones (for calls or texting) should adhere to the laws of the state. Use of these devices is a leading cause of collisions, injuries, and deaths.

Be sure to consult your local or state laws regarding child and vehicle safety in your area.