

# keeping kids safe in vehicles



infants to preschoolers	toddlers and preschoolers	elementary school age children	older children
<b>REAR-FACING</b>	<b>FORWARD-FACING WITH HARNESS</b>	<b>BELT POSITIONING BOOSTER SEAT</b>	<b>SEAT BELT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ All children should ride in a rear-facing car seat to the maximum weight or height allowed by car seat manufacturer instructions/labels.</li> <li>◆ Convertible and All-In-One style car seats have 40-50 pound weight limits, allowing most children to <b>ride rear facing for at least 2 years.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Children who have outgrown their rear-facing car seat by weight or height should use a forward-facing car seat with a harness to the maximum weight or height allowance of the car seat.</li> <li>◆ Weight limits for forward-facing car seats with harnesses range from <b>40-65 pounds to accommodate older children</b> remaining harnessed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Children who have outgrown the weight or height limits of their forward-facing harnessed seat need to use a belt-positioning booster. This seat keeps the lap belt low on the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the chest and collarbone.</li> <li>◆ Children need boosters until they fit the seat belt properly, usually between <b>10-12 years old.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A lap and shoulder belt are the best protection once a child passes the <b>fit test below:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Can sit with their back against the vehicle seat.</li> <li>✓ Knees bend naturally at the front edge of the seat.</li> <li>✓ Feet rest flat on the floor.</li> <li>✓ Lap belt sits across hips and thighs; shoulder belt sits in the center of the shoulder.</li> <li>✓ Can stay seated correctly for the entire ride.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ All <b>children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat</b> for the best protection.</li> </ul>

Maryland's child passenger safety law is **effective October 1, 2022** ( see reverse for details )

\*These seat recommendations are in compliance with AAP Guidelines.

# Maryland's Child Passenger Safety Law

## Effective October 1, 2022

A person transporting a child under the age of 8 years in a motor vehicle shall secure the child in a federally approved child safety seat in accordance with the child safety seat and vehicle manufacturers' instructions unless the child is 4'9" in height or taller. A person may not transport a child under the age of 16 years unless the child is secured in a child safety seat or seat belt in all seating positions in all vehicles. (TR22.412.2I[d])

(Violation is subject to a fine of \$50)

**A person transporting a child under the age of 2 years in a motor vehicle shall secure the child in a rear-facing child safety seat that complies with applicable federal regulations until the child reaches the weight or height limit specified by the manufacturer of the child safety seat.** (Violation is subject to a written warning for a first violation)

**Questions?** Call Maryland Kids in Safety Seats at **800.370.SEAT** or 410.767.6016 or **mdkiss.org**

