

keeping kids safe in vehicles



infants to preschoolers



toddlers and preschoolers



elementary school age children



older children

REAR-FACING

- ◆ All children should ride in a rear-facing car seat to the maximum weight or height allowed by car seat manufacturer instructions/labels.
- ◆ Convertible and All-In-One style car seats have 40-50 pound weight limits, allowing most children to **ride rear facing for at least 2 years.**

FORWARD-FACING WITH HARNESS

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Weight limits for forward-facing car seats with harnesses range from **40-65 pounds to accommodate older children** remaining harnessed.

BELT POSITIONING BOOSTER SEAT

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Children need boosters until they fit the seat belt properly, usually between **10-12 years old.**

SEAT BELT

- ◆ A lap and shoulder belt are the best protection once a child passes the **fit test below:**
 - ✓ Can sit with their back against the vehicle seat.
 - ✓ Knees bend naturally at the front edge of the seat.
 - ✓ Feet rest flat on the floor.
 - ✓ Lap belt sits across hips and thighs; shoulder belt sits in the center of the shoulder.
 - ✓ Can stay seated correctly for the entire ride.
- ◆ **All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat** for the best protection.

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. (TR22.412.21[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

