

Child Passenger Safety Tips

- Ohio law states that children must be restrained in a child safety seat until they are 4 years old and 40 pounds. All children above 4 years and 40 pounds up to 15 years of age, must be restrained in every seating position – either with a booster seat or seat belt.
- Children should ride rear facing for a minimum of 1 year and 20 pounds
- Children should ride in booster seats until they are 8 years old or 80 pounds or 4’9” tall
- Children 12 and under should ride in the back seat—restrained with a lap AND shoulder belt
- Children should be placed in the seat, with the harness straps tight—you should not be able to pinch the harness strap webbing – think “smooth and snug”
- The harness retainer clip should be placed at arm pit level
- For a rear-facing child, the harness straps should come from at or below the shoulder level
- For a forward facing child, the harness straps should come from at or above the shoulder level
- A five-point harness system is the safest
- Any safety seat must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions and your vehicle owner's manual
- The seat should be secure and snug in the car—no more than 1” of movement from side to side or front to back
- NEVER use a seat that has been involved in an accident
- NEVER use a second-hand seat or seat you do not know the history of.

For more specific questions or to have your car seat installed/inspected, please contact Safe Kids Stark County at 330-493-9904 x 282 or e-mail kellya@starkhealth.org.