Children's Hospital of Wisconsin®

A member of Children's Hospital and Health System.

PARENT/CAREGIVER FORM

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Booster and Car Seat Clinic

Only 1 in 10 car seats is used correctly. Is yours the one? To schedule a car seat check, call (414) 607-5280.

Child name _____ Date of birth _____

Parent/caregiver name _____ Appointment date _____

Is your child in the correct seat?

- ☐ The seat fits your child's age, weight and height correctly. Make sure to read the manual carefully for height and weight details.
- ☐ The seat is not expired. Most car seats have a lifespan of six years from the manufacture date.
- ☐ The seat is not recalled. Make sure you fill out and send in the registration card.
- ☐ You know the history of the seat. Once a car seat has been in a crash it should not be used as there may be damage you cannot see.

Is your child fitting correctly in the seat?

- ☐ Straps must be snug so you can only fit one finger between child and strap. Or, try to pinch slack at the shoulders. If you can, tighten the harness more.
- ☐ When a child is rear facing, straps must be **at or below** shoulders.
- ☐ When a child is forward facing, straps must be **at or above** shoulders, never below.
- ☐ The chest clip should be at armpit level. Remember, "clip at the pit."
- ☐ Your child should wear thin-layered clothes. Thick sweatshirts and snowsuits prevent the harness from fitting correctly.

Is the seat in the vehicle correctly?

- ☐ The seat moves 1 inch or less from side to side at the belt path.
- ☐ The seatbelt or the LATCH system is being used correctly.
- ☐ Check the vehicle owner's manual for installation specifics.
- ☐ Check the car seat owner's manual for installation specifics.

Did you know?

- ☐ Never use anything that does not come with the seat, including headrests, buntings, padding, etc. These items are not crash tested with your seat and could be harmful in a crash.
- ☐ Make sure loose items in the vehicle are secure or stored in the trunk. Unsecured items can fly around and injure your child in a crash.
- ☐ When washing the seat only use mild soap and water and air dry. Detergents and heat can decrease the effectiveness of the harness for your child and remove flame retardancy of the cover.

Your child has outgrown this seat when (whichever comes first):

Weight Child has reached _____ pounds.

Height **Rear-facing:** Top of head is 1 inch from the top of seat.
Forward-facing: Shoulders are above top harness slot or ears are above top of seat.

Your next step is:

- ☐ A rear-facing convertible seat (this allows your child to stay rear-facing to higher weights and heights).
- ☐ A forward-facing seat.
- ☐ A higher weight/height forward-facing seat.
- ☐ A booster seat.
- ☐ A seat belt.

Car seat information

Manufacturer _____

Model No. _____

Manufacture date _____

Expiration date _____

Notes _____

Type of seat	Wisconsin law	Best practice
Rear-facing car seat	Children must be rear-facing in a car seat until age 1 and 20 pounds.	Children should stay rear-facing as long as possible. Studies now recommend children stay rear-facing until age 2.
Forward-facing harness seat	Once a child is in a forward-facing car seat, he or she must remain in a harness until age 4 **and** 40 pounds.	New seats on the market allow higher harness weights up to 50-80 pounds, allowing children to stay in a harness longer. Children are much better protected when restrained in a harness.
Booster seat	A booster seat is required once a child has graduated from a forward-facing harness seat, until the child reaches one of the following: 8 years old **or** 80 pounds **or** 4 feet and 9 inches tall.	Children should stay in a booster seat until they are tall enough to sit on the vehicle seat without slouching **and** the seat belt fits snugly across the hips, chest and shoulder.
Seat belt	A seat belt is required once a child has outgrown the requirements of a booster seat.	
Back seat	If there is a back seat, children 4 and younger need to be restrained appropriately in the back seat.	Children 12 and younger should sit in the back seat.

Check out these online resources: chw.org/carseats • BlueKids.org/KohlsCares • usa.safekids.org