



Keep younger kids safe when riding

Teach kids to ride safely

- Be a good role model. Always wear your seat belt.
- Be sure your child rides in their car or booster seat on every trip. Short rides can be just as dangerous as long ones when riders are not buckled up.
- If your child tries to wiggle out of the car seat, stop the car in a safe place, and check the harness straps. Let them know the car will not move until they stay buckled.
- Use positive reinforcement. Reward your child when they ride correctly in their car or booster seat for the entire trip.
- When your child is riding with others, be sure they are in a properly fitted car seat.
- Give your child things to do. If it is hard to put your child into their car seat, try giving them a toy, tell a story or sing a song while they get buckled. Use activities to keep them occupied during the trip.
- Stop often on long car trips. Get out of the car to stretch and move.

Escape artist struggles

There are no escape-proof car seats. Kids may try to undo buckles and wiggle out of harnesses or booster seats. There are things you can do to help your child stay buckled.

In a harness seat, keep the harness snug and the chest clip at armpit level. A loose harness will not keep your child safe in a crash. It also makes it easier for kids to wiggle out of the car seat.

Look for a car seat that has a chest clip that is hard for your child to undo. Many kids learn how to move or undo the chest clip on the harness. Contact your car seat manufacturer for advice.

Booster seat struggles

If your child is not able to sit correctly in a booster seat, this may mean the booster seat does not fit them right. Or, they may not be mature enough to sit in a booster seat. Try going back to a harness seat.

Instead of going to a seat belt too soon, try a backless booster seat for your older child. Your child may be more willing to sit in one.

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