



Always make sure that the straps on your grandchild's car seat are "snug as a hug" to ensure they remain safe and secure in the event of a crash.

Children under age 2 should ride facing the back of the car in order to protect their head, neck and spine.



Toddlers

should ride in a seat with a 5-point internal harness until they exceed the weight limit listed on the seat. The harness distributes (and thus minimizes) the force of a crash.



Young Children

should use a booster seat, which allows them to more safely (and comfortably) use seat belts designed for adult passengers. Booster seats require both a lap belt and shoulder belt.



Grandparents as Caregivers



Additional Resources

Illinois Department of Transportation
TrafficSafety.Illinois.gov

NHTSA Ease of Use Rating for Car Seats
NHTSA.gov/Safety/Ease-of-Use

Find a Certified CPS Technician in your area
BuckleUpIllinois.org

AAA
Find help on other senior driving topics at
SeniorDriving.AAA.com

Secretary of State
CyberDriveIllinois.com

Illinois Department on Aging
State.il.us/Aging/

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Frequently Asked Questions About Car Seats

Grandparents

play a very special role in a child's life. Whether you are providing regular child care for your grandchildren, or just taking them for a trip to the zoo, if they ride in your car, it is your responsibility to make sure they stay safe and secure in a car seat.

This guide is designed to help ensure the car seat is properly installed in your vehicle and your grandchild is correctly buckled in the car seat.

Q My kids grew up without car seats, so why do my grandkids need them?

A Car crashes are the number one cause of injuries and death for children in the U.S. Proper use of the right car seat provides the best protection against these tragedies. You cannot always control what happens on the road, but you can control what happens in your car!

Q Am I really required to use a car seat when driving with my grandchildren?

A Yes! Illinois law requires that all children under the age of 8 must ride in an appropriate child safety seat—which includes a booster seat. *Also remember, all drivers and passengers are required to wear a seat belt, no matter where they sit.*

Q Can I just pick up a car seat at a yard sale or resale shop?

A While it may be tempting to pick up a used seat, second-hand seats often contain hidden dangers. Seats that have been involved in a previous crash, are past the manufacturer's recommended expiration date, or have been recalled for defects are no longer usable. Buying a second-hand seat means you have to rely on second-hand information about its safety.

Q How will I know I am doing it right?

A To ensure a proper installation, schedule an appointment with a certified child safety seat technician. You can find a listing of technicians in your area at www.buckleupillinois.org.

Even after they are tall enough to use the seat belt without a booster, children under age 13 should ride in the back seat.



Please Remember...

- Never hold a child in your lap while driving or riding.
- Always buckle your grandchildren in the back seat—air bags can be dangerous for children.
- Be a positive role model. Buckle your own seat belt every time you get in the car, and never use your cell phone while driving.
- Never put a child in a rear-facing car seat in the front vehicle seat where there is an active air bag.
- Older children in booster seats must always be secured with a lap belt AND shoulder belt.



BuckleUpIllinois.org