



## Car Seat Safety

Which car seat to choose? Which one should my child be in at this point? These are the questions we are going to answer. Having your child in the proper car seat is the best way to keep them safe while traveling. There are numerous options available now and it is hard to decide which one to purchase. We will give you some guidelines to make your decision the right one:

- Be sure the car seat with a label stating that it meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213.
- If your car seat is used: be sure it is not more than 6 years old, has never been in an accident, cracked, or missing manufacturer information. You may also call the manufacturer to check on recalls.
- Fill out the registration information so you will be notified of any recalls.

### What else should you know?

Clothing affects safety in the car seat. Even if it is cold outside, do not swaddle your baby, or put a fluffy/thick coat on them before buckling them in the car seat. Why? Swaddling your baby does not allow you to properly buckle them into the seat. Thick coats do not allow the seat straps to get close enough to the baby in order to protect them.

Instead, buckle your child into the car seat and then wrap a blanket around them by tucking it under their feet and under shoulders. Be sure that the blanket is not covering their nose.

## Not so “fun facts”

-Car accidents are one of the leading causes of death in children ages 1 to 13.

-**Three out of four** car seats are not used properly.

- In 2010, 1 to 2 children were killed each day and 325 children were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes each day. **This fatality rate could be reduced by about half if the correct child safety seats were always used.** (CDC)



Who can you contact to be sure your child 's car seat is installed and used properly?

Midway Fire Rescue  
Pawleys Island  
843-545-3610

City of Myrtle Beach  
Fire Department  
843-918-1192

City of Myrtle Beach  
Police Department  
843-918-1381

\*\*\*Be sure to call first to know when the certified car seat inspector is available.



If you have questions or concerns about what type of car seat your child should be in, please contact our office at **843-652-3300**. One of our nurses would be glad to speak with you.

Helpful, informative websites and resources: (you may have to copy/paste)

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx>

<http://www.safercar.gov/parents/home.htm>

[http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid\\_safe/outdoor/auto\\_baby\\_toddler.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/auto_baby_toddler.html)

[http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/child\\_passenger\\_safety/cps-factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/child_passenger_safety/cps-factsheet.html)

[http://www.safercar.gov/parents/TRS/Chairs60\\_Eng\\_720x404.mov](http://www.safercar.gov/parents/TRS/Chairs60_Eng_720x404.mov)

[http://www.safekids.org/search?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=car+seat](http://www.safekids.org/search?search_api_views_fulltext=car+seat)



## IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?



SAFERCAR.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT



Age Group	Type of Seat	General Guidelines
<b>Infants/ Toddlers</b>	Rear-facing only seats and rear-facing convertible seats	All infants and toddlers should ride in a Rear-Facing Car Seat until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat's manufacturer.
<b>Toddler/ Preschool</b>	Convertible seats and forward-facing seats with harness	Any child 2 years or older who has outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car seat, should use a Forward-Facing Car Seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed their car seat's manufacturer. This also applies to any child younger than 2 years who has outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit of their seat.
<b>School-aged children</b>	Booster seats	All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car seat should use a Belt-Positioning Booster Seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age.
<b>Older children</b>	Seat belts	When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use Lap and Shoulder Seat Belts for optimal protection. All children younger than 13 years should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.

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