



### Maryland's Child Passenger Safety Law:

- Maryland's child passenger safety law states that children up to age eight must ride in an appropriate child restraint, according to manufacturer's instructions, unless the child is over 4'9" or 65 pounds.
- Every child from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured in a vehicle seat belt, in any seating position.

### Safety Recommendations:

- Infants and young children should ride rear-facing to the maximum weight and height allowed by the child restraint. Current rear-facing age range: 18-24 months, as young children are 76% safer when they ride rear-facing up to the age of two.
- Toddlers should ride forward-facing to the maximum weight and height allowed by the child restraint. Longer is better- many child restraints now have 40-80 lb forward-facing harness systems to allow older children to continue riding in a harness system.
- All harness straps should be snug and flat. Check the owner's manual to see which set of shoulder slots should be used. The clip should be level with the underarms.
- Many children still need a booster seat, even after reaching eight years old. The best test to see if a child is ready to move out of a booster seat is the following checklist:
  - Can the child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
  - Do his/her knees bend comfortably over the edge of the seat?
  - Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
  - Is the lap belt low on the hips, touching the thighs?
  - Can the child stay seated in that position for the entire ride?

If "no" is the answer to any of the questions, the child should remain in the booster seat.

- Children under 13 are safest in the back seat.
- ALWAYS Buckle Up- Every Person, Every Ride, Every Seating Position.

The following Web sites are updated on a regular basis and contain the most current information available to the public.

[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

[www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)

[www.saferidenews.com](http://www.saferidenews.com)

[www.mdkiss.org](http://www.mdkiss.org)