

Child Seat Safety Guide



**HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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VERY IMPORTANT:

Weight, height, and age requirements/limits are found on the informational stickers on the side of each child seat and manual. Refer to manufacturer's informational stickers and manual prior to placing child in seat.

Selecting a Child Seat

Child Seats and Boosters should be selected based on the child's:

- Age
- Weight
- Height
- Developmental Level

Additional Things to Consider:

- The fit of the child seat or booster in the vehicle
- The ability of the caregiver to install/use the child seat or booster correctly every time

When and How Long Should My Child Use a Seat?

Good:

- Child meets the seat manufacturer's minimum age, weight, and height requirements

Better:

- Child falls well within the seat manufacturer's age, weight and height minimum and maximum requirements

Best:

- Child continues use of seat until they meet the seat manufacturer's maximum age, weight, height requirements

Expiration Dates

Reasons child seats have expiration dates may include:

- Possible deterioration or breakdown of the plastic shell or other parts
- Updated performance standards

Secondhand Seats

Keep the following in mind before accepting a secondhand seat:

- Is the history of the seat known?
- Are there any missing labels?
- Is the seat expired?
- Is there a recall on the seat?

Seats Involved in a Crash

Following a crash, car seats may need to be replaced. NHTSA has established the following criteria for assessing a minor crash severity:

- No visible cracks or deformities can be seen
- The vehicle involved in the crash can be driven from the scene
- The vehicle door nearest the car seat is undamaged
- No occupant injuries
- Air bags did not deploy

Beyond a Booster

- In the State of Nevada, the child must be at least 6 years old and 57 inches (4 foot 9 inches) in height
- Good rule of thumb is, the child's feet should be flat on the floor with their knees folded over the edge of the seat naturally while they sit completely back against the backrest
- Make sure for seat belt placement that the lap belt sits on the upper thighs of the child and the shoulder belt sits on the shoulder and not across the neck
- Nevada recommends that a child be at least 12 years old to ride in the front with an airbag for their safety

Resources

Additional information and resources can be found at the following websites:

Child Seat Recall Information

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>

REMSA Community Seat and Installation Program

<https://www.remsahealth.com/outreach/point-of-impact/>

Safe Kids

<https://www.safekids.org/>

Washoe County Child Services

https://www.washoecounty.gov/hsa/childrens_services/