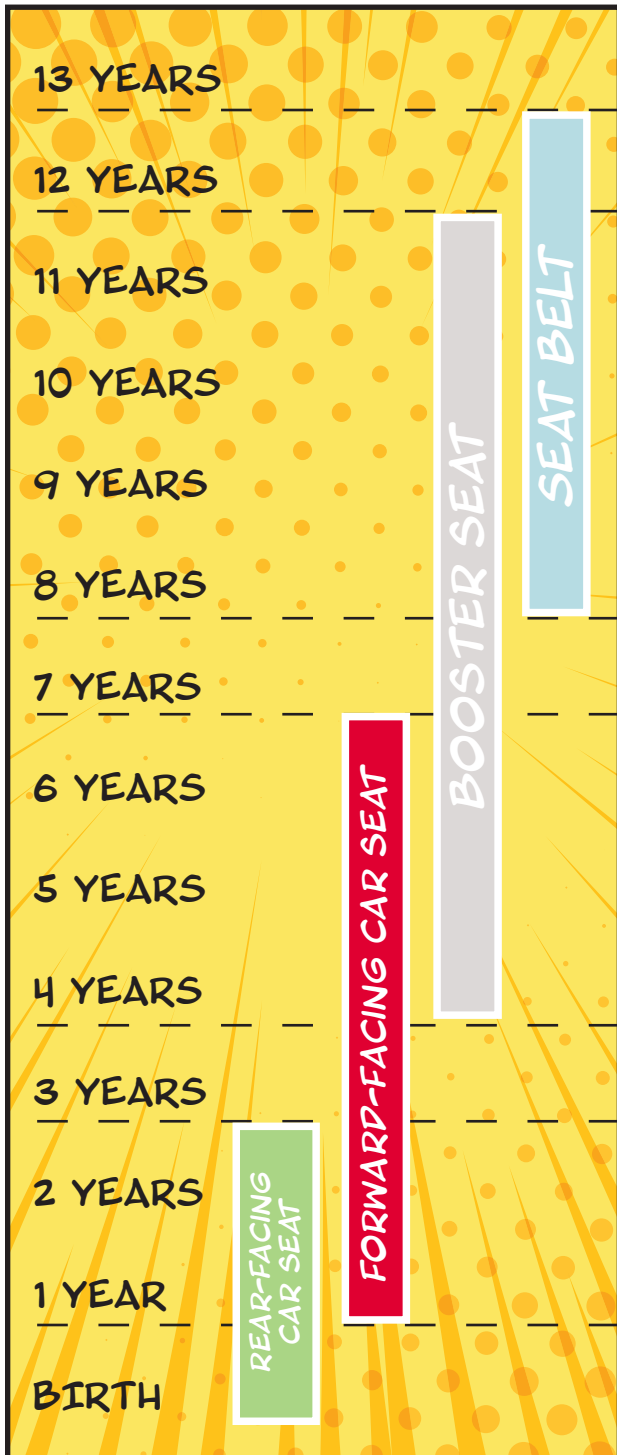


CHAMPIONS FOR SAFETY!

Fits your child. Fits your car. Used correctly, every time.



A child should remain in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember, a child should ride in the back seat if younger than 13 years old.

A seat belt will restrain a child safely in a crash once they are big enough for the lap belt and shoulder belt to fit properly.



In Florida, children ages 4 and 5 must be in a separate carrier, integrated child seat, or booster seat.

Once a child outgrows the forward-facing car seat, it's time to travel in a booster seat, and should always be in the back seat. If the vehicle does not have a backseat, the booster seat should be used with the air bag turned off.

A booster seat positions the seat belt properly so that the lap belt lies snugly across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt lies across the shoulder and chest.



A child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer.

Keep a child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. If the vehicle does not have a backseat, the forward-facing car seat should be used with the air bag turned off.

A forward-facing car seat has a five-point harness and tether that limits a child's forward movement during a crash.



A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for a child under age 2 to use. Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing a child to be rear-facing for a longer period of time. If the vehicle does not have a backseat, the rear-facing car seat should be used with the air bag turned off.

A rear-facing car seat has a harness and, in a crash, cradles and moves with a child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

To set an appointment at a local FHP station and have a certified Trooper help inspect a seat, visit flhsmv.gov/childsafety.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO BE

CHAMPIONS FOR SAFETY!

Car and Driveway Tips

- Never leave a child unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle. It can be extremely hot year-round in Florida and can result in the child's injury or death. A car's temperature can rise by 20 degrees in just 10 minutes.
- When getting out of the vehicle, check to make sure all children are out and safe. Put a purse or other important item in the backseat with the child as a reminder.
- Keep vehicles locked in driveways or garages and store keys out of the reach of children to avoid the chance of becoming trapped in a vehicle.
- Teach children to never play in, on, around, or under vehicles. Keep toys or bicycles off of the driveway. When backing out of a driveway or parked spot, make sure all children are accounted for and look twice before moving.



School Bus and School Zone Safety



- Parents and children should watch for and obey signals from school crossing guards.
- Only drive or park in authorized areas to drop off or pick up children at school.
- When waiting for the school bus, children should stay back from the road and never sit on the road or curb. When the bus stops, children should wait for the driver to tell them that it is safe to board.
- Children should sit properly in the seat facing the front and use an "inside" voice to always hear and listen to the driver.
- Teach children to never speak to strangers at the bus stop or get into a car with a stranger. Make sure they tell the bus driver, a teacher, and parents if a stranger tries to talk to them or pick them up.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

- All bicycle riders and passengers under age 16 are required by Florida Law to wear a helmet. Always wear a properly fitted helmet and securely fasten the strap.
- Be seen. Wear neon, fluorescent, or bright colors and something that reflects light when riding or walking at night.
- Obey all traffic laws. Cross at intersections and never pull out into the roadway from between parked cars. Use bike lanes whenever possible.
- Always walk on the sidewalk if there is one and always cross at corners or in crosswalks. Do not cross if the crosswalk signal is red or displaying "Don't Walk."



For more materials, please go to:

flhsmv.gov/childsafety

