



February—Child Passenger Safety

We want to keep our children safe in every aspect of their lives and motor vehicle crashes is the number one cause of injury and death in children so it's very important to follow and role model safety in the car. Children 12 and under should sit in the back seat to avoid the airbag in the front seat. The airbag is made to keep adults safe in a crash, they are not meant for children. The law in Minnesota states that children under 8 need to ride in a booster or car seat, but did you not most children by that age don't properly fit in the seat without one? There is a 5 step test that can be done in each vehicle the child rides in to assure proper fit.

It is possible that a child will fit well in 1 vehicle and not another, or may fit better in the 3rd row of some vehicles and not need a booster seat.

If a child moves out a booster seat too soon they could slip under the seat belt in a crash, moving the lap belt from their hard hip bones to their soft stomach tissues and vital organs.

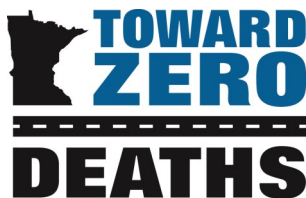
Regardless of your child's size or booster needs, remember all kids under the age of 13 should ride in the back seat to be away from an airbag that could deploy in a crash.



As your child grows older, it is important to be a good role model with many different aspects of life. One of those would be making safe choices in the car. If the adults they ride with use a seat belt, then kids/teens are more likely to use a seatbelt as well. As those kids get bigger and start learning to drive, make sure you have set a good example to drive distraction free and obey speed limits. Once young adults are out on the road on their own, we want to make sure they, and the others on the road around them, are set up for success!

To learn more about specific laws or car seat clinics in your area, visit the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots>

This message is shared by Safe Kids Grand Forks and our partners with Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.



Altru Health System is proud to serve as the lead agency for Safe Kids Grand Forks.

For more information on this and other childhood injury prevention topics, visit safekidsgf.com, call us at 701.780.1489 or email safekids@altru.org.

