



Keeping kids safe at HOME, at SCHOOL, at PLAY, and ON the WAY!!

## Child Passenger Safety



The number one cause of death during motor vehicle crash is from not being properly restrained in a car or booster seat or a seatbelt.

It is important to keep all occupants in a vehicle safe during a ride and in case of a motor vehicle crash. The North Dakota and Minnesota law requires children younger than 8 years of age to ride in a car or booster seat. It is also recommended for children to ride in the back seat if they are 12 or under to avoid the airbag. 4 out of 5 car and booster seats are used incorrectly. To ensure a child's safety in a motor vehicle, you need to make sure the seat is the right size for the vehicle and used correctly. There are different guidelines to follow to keep a kids safe in a vehicle.

- ⇒ All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat, away from the airbags.
- ⇒ Younger kids should remain in a harnessed car seat until they have outgrown the seat's weight limits (harnessing to 65# is the best practice if the seat will allow).
- ⇒ Bigger kids that have outgrown the forward-facing car seat and are under 4 feet, 9 inches should use booster seats.
- ⇒ All occupants in the vehicle need to buckle up on every ride, even shorter ones.
- ⇒ 4 out of 5 car seats are used incorrectly so be sure to read the vehicle and car seat's instruction manual for proper use.
- ⇒ Students that are over 4 feet, 9 inches can start using seat belts as long as they fit them correctly. They must use seat belts with lap and shoulder straps, with the shoulder belt resting on the shoulder, back firmly against the back seat, and knees bent at the front edge of the seat.
- ⇒ If you are carpooling, the driver is responsible to assure that everyone has the proper car or booster seat and that no one is "sharing a seatbelt".
- ⇒ If you cannot afford a car or booster seat, reach out to Safe Kids Grand Forks for help.
- ⇒ Want some help deciding if your youth is ready to make the transition from the booster seat to a car seat? Come to one of our many checkup events. Find them at [www.safekidsgf.com](http://www.safekidsgf.com)



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](http://safekidsgf.com), call us at 701.780.1489 or email [safekids@altru.org](mailto:safekids@altru.org).



This information is brought to you by Safe Kids Grand Forks & our partners at MN Toward Zero Death.