



## Keeping Kids Safe

We at Union EMS are proud to provide child safety seat checks to the public free of charge. During these monthly checks, we will check the condition of the seat, the installation and if the seat is appropriate for the child, for recalls and educate the parents on proper installation. By providing this service, we hope to keep the children of our community safer.

### North Carolina State Law

Any child less than 8 years AND less than 80 pounds must be restrained in a proper child restraint device.

The full summary of the state law is available at [www.buckleupnc.org](http://www.buckleupnc.org)

### Which seat is best for my child?

Make sure the seat fits your child height and weight, fits your vehicle, and meets federal standards as labeled on seat.

Never use second hand seats if the history of the seat is unknown.

Never use a seat that is more than 6 years past manufacture date as labeled on the seat.

**More information is available at:**

[www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org)

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

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



## **Types of Child safety seats**

### **Infant seats**

- For children 0-1 year
- Always rear facing
- Never in front of an airbag
- Should be installed at a 45degree angle
- Straps are threaded through lower slots and are at or below the shoulders
- Harness clip should be at armpit level
- Straps should be snug against child's body
- Seat should be secured in the vehicle with less than 1 inch movement

### **Convertible / forward facing seats**

- When children are 1 year AND at least 20 lbs
- Never in front of an airbag
- Straps are threaded through upper slots and are at or above the shoulders
- Harness clip should be at armpit level
- Straps should be snug against child's body
- Seat should be secured in the vehicle with less than 1 inch movement
- Children up to 40 lbs

### **Booster Seats**

- For children 40-80 lbs
- Never in front of an airbag
- Designed to lift the child to fit the vehicle seat belt
- Shoulder strap diagonally across chest and rests on shoulder
- Lap belt across child's hips and thighs – not across the stomach
- Never let the child place the belts under their arms or behind their backs



## Tips to remember

All safety seats are different. Read the installation instructions that come with the seat. Vehicles are different as well. Read your vehicles owners manual for other tips specific to your vehicle and safety seat.

If the safety seat is more than 6 years old or has been involved in a crash, replace it!

All children under age 12 should be properly restrained in the back seat of the vehicle.

## Common Questions

### **How do I get the seat tight enough in the vehicle?**

When using the vehicle seat belts, use your knee to push the seat into a secure position.

### **What is LATCH?**

LATCH stands for Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children. The system allows you to install the seat without using the vehicle seat belts. Metal anchors in the vehicle are used to secure the seat to the vehicle. Check the owner's manual of your vehicle to see if you have the LATCH system.

### **When can my child use the vehicle seat belt?**

When the child can:

- Sit against the vehicle seat back with knees bent over the seat
- Secure the seat belt over their lap and snugly across the shoulders