

Common Excuses Parents Use

Although each tribal community is unique in its rich cultural history, similar trends emerge when we look at child safety seat practices and the excuses parents give for not using them both on and off tribal lands:

- “I am only going down the road, why do I need to buckle my child in for such a short ride?”
- “He will stop crying if I hold him on my lap.”
- “She thinks she is too big to be in the car seat and she can get out.”

If you remain firm and insist on using the car seat for every ride, your children will be used to it and not put up a fight and they will be safe for every ride!

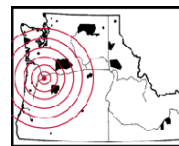


Protecting yourself, your family and your community



CHILD SAFETY SEATS on TRIBAL LANDS

Protecting yourself, your family and your community



Tribal Epidemiology Center
Consortium

Protect Our People, Use Child Safety Seats

Installing Seats for Safety

For every child and car seat you need to know:

- **Direction** — Should the seat face the rear or the front of the vehicle?
- **Location** — Where is the safest place in the vehicle?
- **Belt Path** — For convertible seats, are you using the correct belt path for the direction the seat?
- **Belt Tightness** — Do you know how to lock the seat belt?
- **Compatibility** — What is the correct seat for the weight, height and age of the child in your vehicle?

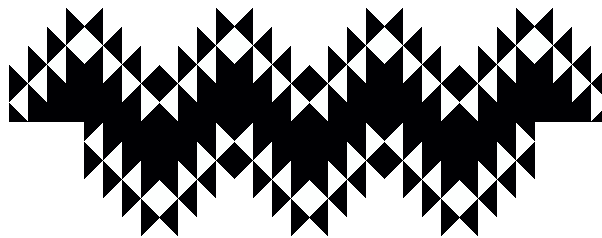


Common Incorrect Car Seats Uses

Car seat instruction manuals can be confusing, or may not even come with a used seat.

73% of all car seats inspected in the U.S. are installed incorrectly.¹

Often the retainer clip is not put at the level of the child's armpit. If the clip is too low, there can be damage to internal organs. Another issue is that many times the seatbelt is not pulled snug to hold the car seat.



4 Steps for Kids²

1. Rear Facing Seats—

Keep infants in the back seat, in a rear facing facing car seat until *1 year old and 20 lbs.*

2. Forward Facing Seat—

Toddlers should ride in a forward facing car seat that is in the back seat until they are approximately *4 years old and 40 lbs.*

3. Booster Seat—

Small children should ride in a booster seat until they are *8 years old or are at least 4'9" tall.*

4. Seat Belts—

Children can use seat belts once they are *8 years old or are at least 4'9" tall.* Remember, all children should be in the *back seat* until their *13th birthday.*

¹ Misuse of Child Restraints: Results of a Workshop to Review Field Data Results. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT HS 809 851, March 2005

² 4 Steps for Kids. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. <http://www.boosterseat.gov/4StepsFlyer.pdf>