# Child Passenger Safety

## in Virginia



## Rear-Facing

***From birth until 2 years old or until they reach the rear-facing car seat's weight or height limit***

- ◯ I know that Virginia Law requires rear-facing car seats to be used in the back seat and never in front of an active airbag.
- ◯ The car seat is buckled tightly in the car, using the vehicle seat belt or LATCH. It does not move more than one inch when I pull on it.
- ◯ The car seat sits at the correct angle as stated in the car seat manual.
- ◯ The harness straps are snug, straight, flat and are routed through the slots that are level with or below the shoulders.
- ◯ The chest clip is at the same level as the armpits.
- ◯ I do not use accessories that did not come with the seat (pads, mirrors, toys, etc.).

### Virginia Law

Virginia Law requires all children to be properly secured in a car seat or booster seat until at least age 8. There is no minimum weight or height limit associated with the law. Consider keeping your 8-12 year old in a booster seat until they fit correctly in a seat belt.





## Forward-Facing

***Once they are over age 2 or have outgrown the rear-facing car seat's weight or height limit***

- ◯ I know that my child is safer when riding in the back seat.
- ◯ The car seat is buckled tightly in the car, using the vehicle seat belt or LATCH. It does not move more than one inch when I pull on it.
- ◯ I use the correct forward-facing belt path to secure the seat to the vehicle.
- ◯ The tether strap is attached to the correct vehicle anchor point, as stated in the vehicle owner's manual.
- ◯ The harness straps are snug, straight, flat and are routed through the slots that are level with or above the shoulders.
- ◯ The chest clip is at the same level as the armpits.

### Don't let cost stand in your way!

If you are a resident of Virginia and are not able to afford a car seat or booster seat for your child, you may qualify for free assistance from the Virginia Department of Health. Call 1-800-732-8333 or visit safetyseatva.org to learn more.

## Booster Seat

***Once they have outgrown the forward-facing car seat's weight or height limit***

- ◯ I know that my child is safer when riding in the back seat.
- ◯ My child is secured in the booster seat by a lap AND shoulder belt.
- ◯ The lap belt sits low and snug on his/her thighs, not on the stomach.
- ◯ The shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest, not on the neck, under the arm, or behind the back.
- ◯ The seat belt is snug, flat and comfortable.
- ◯ I only use a backless booster seat when the vehicle seat has a headrest.

### Do you need help with car seat installation?

Find a Virginia Safety Seat Check Station to have your car seat checked by a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician or visit safetyseatva.org to view online videos of car seat installations.





## Seat Belt

***Once they are at least age 8 (legal minimum in VA); if child does not fit correctly in a seat belt, use a booster seat***

- ◯ The lap belt sits low and snug on his/her thighs, not on the stomach.
- ◯ The shoulder belt lies across the middle of the shoulder, not on the neck, under the arm, or behind the back.
- ◯ My child can sit with his/her back and hips firmly against the back of the seat, without slouching during the whole ride.
- ◯ His/her knees are able to bend naturally over the edge of the seat and feet are touching the floor, without slouching.
- ◯ I know that my child is safer riding in the back seat until he/she is at least 13 years old.

### Virginia Department of Health Child Passenger Safety

SafetySeatVA.org  1-800-732-8333