

Only move your child to a booster seat when they are too big for their current forward facing child seat. This should not be before they are 4 years old and may be when they are older than 4 years.

• **Booster Seat**

For children from at least 4 years, until they fit correctly into an adult seat belt (at around 145cm tall).

A rigid booster seat with a back and side wings is recommended for children when they outgrow their forward facing child seat. A booster seat lifts a child so that an adult lap/sash belt can fit well and provide better protection.

Booster seats are designed to be used with an adult lap/sash seat belt. Never use a booster seat with a lap only belt. A booster with a crotch clip can help keep the lap belt in place. A seat belt locator can help keep the shoulder strap of the adult seat belt in place.

Children should be secured in a booster seat until a good adult seat belt fit can be achieved. This is usually when they are about 145cm tall and the adult seat belt fits low across the hip bones and the shoulder strap passes on the outer part of the shoulder, not across their neck. The lap belt should not ride up over the soft abdomen.

When using an adult seat belt either alone or with a booster seat, make sure that the shoulder strap is not placed under the child's arm or behind their back.

child safety is no accident

REMEMBER

- Children need a safe place to play and should always be actively supervised.
- Always supervise children whenever a vehicle is being moved.
- Always take children with you – leaving children alone in the car is illegal and dangerous.
- When riding wheeled toys or bicycles, children should always wear an approved helmet.
- Hold hands with children in and around traffic, at least until 10 years old.
- Set a good example – children are always watching.
- Always use the correct restraint for your child's size and age.
- If possible, place children in the back seat of the car.

Supported by

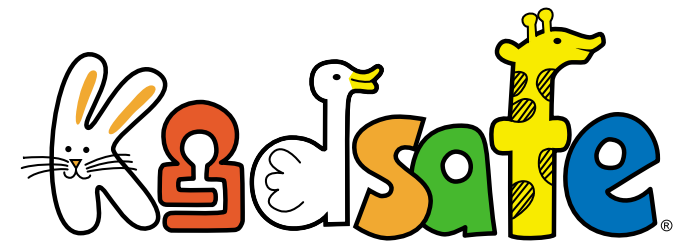
The Motor Accident Authority,
The Roads and Traffic Authority.

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Keeping
kids safe
on &
around
the road



SAFE PLAY

Children need a safe place to play, such as a backyard, fenced park or recreational area. They should always be actively supervised by an adult.

DRIVEWAY SAFETY

Small children can move surprisingly quickly and can be impossible to see from inside a car, especially if they are immediately behind it.

Always supervise children whenever a vehicle is to be moved – hold their hands or hold them close to keep them safe.

If you're the only adult at home and need to move a vehicle, even only a small distance, place children securely in the vehicle with you while you move it.

A driveway is actually a small road – discourage children from using it as a play area.

Make access to the driveway from the house difficult for a child by using security doors, fencing or self latching gates.

PARKED CARS

Parked cars can heat up very quickly, even with windows wound down and older children can touch controls and may set the vehicle in motion.

Always take children with you. Leaving them alone in cars, even for a short period, is illegal and dangerous.

KIDS ON WHEELS

It is important that children learn to use wheeled toys under adult supervision and in a safe environment.

A young child's skull is soft and can easily be injured from a collision or fall.

Whenever children are riding wheeled toys or bicycles, it is important that they are wearing a correctly fitted and Australian Standard approved helmet. This is an adult's responsibility.

Young children who wear helmets from the moment they start riding their first wheeled toy are more likely to continue wearing a helmet as they grow older.

Children should always use safety equipment such as wrist, knee and elbow guards when skateboarding, rollerblading or riding scooters.

You can increase visibility by using bright or lightly coloured clothing, reflectors, reflective tape and visibility flags.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Hold hands with children in and around traffic, until they are at least 10 years old. If your hands are full, make sure children hold onto a shopping trolley, pram, bag, or even your arm or sleeve.

Kids are always watching – they want to be just like adults – so make sure you set a good example.

While walking, talk with children about why it is necessary to stop, and what you need to look and listen for. Explain where it is safer to cross and why.

Remember that wherever a car may be moving can be dangerous. This includes quiet and busy streets, traffic lights, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, footpaths, driveways, car parks and around schools.

PASSENGER SAFETY

Whenever children are in a car they should be buckled-up in child restraints that are correct for each child's size and age.

The law requires that all children must be restrained when travelling in a car. Using a restraint that fits your child correctly, significantly reduces their risk of injury in a car crash.

Where possible restrain all children in the back seat of the car. Child restraints, including booster seats, must not be installed in the front seat of a car fitted with a passenger airbag.

- **Rearward Facing Infant Restraints**

For babies from newborn until at least six months or up to 12 months.

These use a six-point inbuilt harness and can be either a rearward facing capsule or a convertible child restraint. Convertible child restraints can be used rearward facing until approximately 12 months, and then turned around to face forward in the child seat position.

- **Forward Facing Child Seat**

For children from at least 6 months to at least 4 years.

The child seat faces forward and has an inbuilt six-point harness. It is held in place with a vehicle's existing adult lap/sash seat belt and the tether strap from the restraint. It is designed to provide the best available passenger protection for that age.

Always ensure that the child seat is fitted firmly to the vehicle and that the harness is fitted snugly on the child. The child must always have both arms within the harness.

A child seat should be used until your child no longer fits. This is when the child's shoulders are too broad to fit in the seat or when the child's eyes are above the top of the restraint.