



Proud Program Partners



Transporting Children Safely in Child Care Settings

PARENTS CHECKLIST

Did you know that parents report that nearly half of child care providers transport children once a week or more? Make sure you know how your child is being transported while in someone else's care.

Steps to ensure safe travel:

- Take charge of your child's safety. Make sure *you* know the safest way to transport your child.
- Find out how much your provider knows about child passenger safety. Encourage your provider to educate him or herself on correct installation and use of child safety seats for every child in his or her care.
- Check to see if your provider has age- and size-appropriate child safety seats available and if they are used correctly and consistently. If not, consider supplying a child safety seat for your child and showing your provider how to install and use it.
- Maintain an open dialogue regarding your child's transportation. Participate in field trips, if applicable, to guarantee that your child is being transported safely.
- Ask your children how they are being transported and make sure you are aware of all trips your children take while in someone else's care.
- General Guidelines
 - ◆ All children 12 and under should be properly restrained in a back seat.
 - ◆ Infants should ride in rear-facing safety seats as long as possible; at least until they are 12 months old and weigh at least 20 pounds.
 - ◆ Children over 1 year old, who weigh 20-40 pounds and can no longer ride rear-facing, should ride in forward-facing child safety seats.
 - ◆ Children who weigh more than 40 pounds should be correctly secured in belt positioning boosters or other appropriate child restraints until the adult lap and shoulder belts fit correctly, usually around age 8.
 - ◆ Once the vehicle safety belts fit children, both lap and shoulder belts should be correctly used. Keep in mind the shoulder belt should never be behind the back or under the arm.
 - ◆ Visit www.safekids.org and click on "safety seat guide" to find an appropriate child safety seat for your child's age and size.
 - ◆ Attend a child safety seat check up event in your area where trained technicians can inspect your safety seat free of charge. Find local events and SAFE KIDS coalitions at www.safekids.org or by calling (800) 441-1888.





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CHILD CARE PROVIDERS CHECKLIST

Did you know that child care providers must adhere to their state's child restraint law and should have consistent policies for safely transporting children? If you provide care for children, be sure you know how to transport them correctly.

Steps providers need to take to ensure safe travel:

- Make sure all drivers and passengers are restrained in motor vehicles, regardless of seating position, with children ages 12 and under in a back seat.
- Be certain children ages 7 and under are restrained in appropriate child safety seats.
- Make sure to use appropriate child restraints that are correctly installed and adjusted according to manufacturers' instructions:
 - ◆ Every child must ride in an age- and size-appropriate child safety seat.
 - ◆ Visit www.safekids.org and click on "safety seat guide" to find an appropriate child safety seat for every child in your care.
 - ◆ Child safety seats with harness straps should be adjusted and tightened according to manufacturers' instructions.
- Consider attending a child safety seat check up event in your area where trained technicians can inspect your safety seats free of charge. Find local events and SAFE KIDS coalitions at www.safekids.org or by calling (800) 441-1888.
- Check your child safety seats against current child restraint recall lists from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at www.nhtsa.dot.gov, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov.
- Share recall lists and educational materials on proper child occupant protection practices with parents.
- Regularly inspect vehicles used for transporting children for safety and maintenance.
- Make sure that only qualified and responsible drivers transport children.
- Never leave children unattended in or around vehicles.
- Maintain an open dialogue with parents regarding the transportation you provide for their child, and invite them to attend field trips, if applicable.

