

One size  
does not  
**FIT**  
ALL!



**J**ust like kids, child safety seats come in all shapes and sizes. And the right size car seat, properly used and installed, can save your child's life.

If you have questions about your child's car seat, the *Automotive Safety Program* can help. Turn this card over to learn more.



Governor's Council on  
Impaired & Dangerous Driving

A division of the



Call **1-800-KID-N-CAR** for more information.  
[www.preventinjury.org](http://www.preventinjury.org)

## Did you know that as many as nine out of ten car seats are not used or installed correctly?

**T**hat's right! Most car seats have at least one misuse, and misuse can endanger your child's life.

### Are you using your child's car seat correctly?

The Automotive Safety Program sponsors free car seat inspection stations throughout Indiana where certified car seat technicians will make sure you have the car seat that fits your child best and fits in your vehicle properly.

To locate the inspection station nearest you, call the Automotive Safety Program today!  
1-800-KID-N-CAR (1-800-543-6227)  
or visit our website at [www.preventinjury.org](http://www.preventinjury.org)



*Correctly used car seats*

### Car Seat Recommendations for Children

**Birth – 12 months** Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

**1 – 3 years** Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

**4 – 7 years** Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

**8 – 12 years** Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there. (NHTSA, 2011)

**Never place a rear facing car seat in front of an airbag. And remember, the safest place for ALL children is in the back seat.**