

CAR SEAT PROGRAM



LOVE WILL.



Primary Care Clinic Patients

Patients in our primary care clinics (Pediatric Care Clinic at Children's Mercy Broadway, Children's Mercy West and Operation Breakthrough), who need a car seat and cannot afford one, can obtain a car seat during a well child check, when car seats are available. If a car seat is not available during your child's well check, you can call the Car Seat Program at (816) 234-1607 for an appointment Monday – Friday. You will need to bring your child and your vehicle for the appointment. A donation of \$25 for your car seat would be greatly appreciated.

Monthly Buckle Up Clinic

If you are an expectant parent or have a child not seen in our primary care clinics, you can schedule an appointment to get your child's car seat installation inspected. The Buckle Up Clinic is conducted on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the fourth level of the Adele Hall parking garage at Children's Mercy. Appointments are required and will be scheduled for 30 minutes per car seat. (For example, you'll need to schedule an hour for 2 car seats and 90 minutes for 3 car seats.) You can schedule your appointment by calling (816) 234-1607, Monday – Friday during regular business hours. Please bring your child (unless you're an expectant parent), your vehicle, the car seat instruction manual and the vehicle owner's manual to the appointment.



The best car seat for your child is one that fits the child and fits the car, and one you'll use correctly every time you use it.

Special Needs Car Safety Restraints

Your child may require the use of a special needs car seat, car bed or vest restraint. We have a loaner program for the Hippo car seat, Wallenberg car seat, Wallaroo car seat, Jefferson car seat and Hope car bed. We may have other car safety restraints available on an individual basis.



- Premature infants – infants too small for car seats or who are required to lie down may need a car bed.
- Spica casts, risser casts, or long leg casts – infants/toddlers with spica casts, risser casts, or long leg casts may require a special car safety restraint.

LATCH—Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children

LATCH is a system to install a car seat without using the seatbelt. You should use either the lower anchors OR the seat belt, not both, when installing a car seat, unless allowed by both the car seat and vehicle manufacturers.

LATCH installation rear-facing requires securing the car seat with the lower anchors ONLY.

LATCH installation forward-facing requires securing the car seat using BOTH the lower anchors AND top tether. The lower anchors have a weight limit of 65 pounds, including the weight of the car seat. Please refer to your car seat instruction manual for more information.

Tips For Both Rear- and Forward-Facing Car Seats

- Children under 13 years of age are safest in the back seat.
- Your car seat should not move more than 1 inch from side-to-side at the belt path, once installed. Consult your vehicle owner's manual and the car seat manual for proper installation.
- Most car seats need to be replaced after a crash. Contact your car seat manufacturer for more information.
- Fake or counterfeit car seats have been sold in the US. Look closely at your car seat for labels which indicate it was made to meet all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards for the United States. If you're unsure if it is an appropriate car seat, schedule an appointment with a Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) to inspect your car seat.
- Car seats expire! Check with the car seat manufacturer for more information.
- Winter coats and snow suits should not be worn in a car seat. Harness your child into his or her car seat and place the child's coat or blanket over the child and the harness.
- **NEVER** place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag!
- **NEVER** leave children unattended in your vehicle. LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!

Proper Seat Belt Fit

- The shoulder belt should fit snug across the shoulder and chest.
- The lap belt should fit snug across the upper thighs, not over the stomach.
- **NEVER** allow your child to put the shoulder belt under their arm or behind their back

Rear-Facing Car Seat

Your infant or toddler should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until she reaches the highest weight or height limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer. When your infant outgrows her rear-facing only car seat, a convertible or 3-in-1 car seat is needed.



- Follow your car seat instructions for proper angle and handle placement.
- Harness straps should be at or below shoulders.
- Harness straps should be snug – unable to pinch a fold.
- Chest clip at armpit level.

Forward-Facing Car Seat

All children who have outgrown their rear-facing weight or height limit of their convertible car seat should use a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height limit allowed by their car seat manufacturer. Your child should stay in a car seat with a harness until at least 4 years old, but may stay in a car seat longer. Consult your car seat manual for weight and height limits.



- Harness straps should be at or above shoulders.
- Harness straps should be snug – unable to pinch a fold.
- Chest clip at armpit level.
- Use a top tether, if available, per manufacturer instructions.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 2018 and American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018.

Belt-Positioning Booster Seat

Your child should ride in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she is at least 4 years old. Once your child is at least 4 years old and has reached the highest weight or height limit for his forward-facing car seat, your child should use a belt-positioning booster seat (BPB). Your child should use a BPB until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when he or she has reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and is between 8 and 12 years of age.



- Use only with a lap and shoulder belt.
- The lap belt should fit snug across the upper thighs/hips, not the stomach.
- The shoulder belt should fit snug across the shoulder and chest.
- The top of the booster seat or vehicle seat or head rest should be no lower than the tops of his or her ears.

Lap and Shoulder Seat Belt

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is at least 8 to 12 years old and is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly, the lap belt must fit snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should fit snugly across the shoulder and chest and not across the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it is safer.



Tips for using a seat belt:

- Sit without slouching.
- Child's back is flush against vehicle seat back.
- Knees bent over the edge of the seat.
- Be able to sit this way for entire ride.

**NEVER leave children unattended in a car.
LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!**

For more information contact:

2401 Gillham Road
Kansas City, MO 64108
Email: centerforchildhoodsafety@cmh.edu
Phone: (816) 234-1607
Fax: (816) 855-1758

Clinic Locations:

3101 Broadway
Kansas City, MO 64111

4313 State Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66102

childrensmercy.org

Important Numbers

Safe Kids Johnson County
(913) 477-8312

WYCO Health Department
(913) 573-8856

Western Missouri and Kansas Safety and Health Council
(816) 842-5223, ext. 233

To find the nearest car seat inspection station, visit nhtsa.gov/parents-and-caregivers-or-safekids.org.

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2401 Gillham Road
Kansas City, MO 64108-4619

Phone: (816) 234-1607

Fax: (816) 855-1758

Email:
centerforchildhoodsafety@cmh.edu



Use this QR code to visit:
safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide



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