## Car Seat Safety

Don't put your child at riskbuckle up the right way on every ride!

$\checkmark$ My child always rides in the back seat and never in front of an airbag.
$\checkmark$ Everyone in my car buckles up on every ride.
$\checkmark$ My child's car seat has all its parts, labels and instructions and has never been in a crash.
$\checkmark \quad$ I follow the instructions for my car and my car seat so that my child is buckled in right.

* I never leave my child alone in a car, not even for a minute.


## All children must use a car seat, booster seat or a seat belt.

Infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their seat. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear-facing for 2 years or more.

Once they are facing forward, children should use a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, until they reach the height and weight limits allowed by their seat. Many car seats with a harness can fit children up to 65 pounds or more.

When children reach the height or weight limit of a forward-facing harness seat, they should use a beltpositioning booster seat until the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fits properly. This is often when they have reached at least 4 feet 9 inches in height and are 8 to 12 years old.

When children pass the five-step test and can use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use a lap and shoulder belt for the best protection.

All children younger than 13 years should be restrained in the back seat of vehicles.

## Contact Akron Children's Hospital at 330-543-8942 with any car seat questions.

Safe Kids Summit County promotes and implements programs to prevent childhood injuries through community awareness, education and public policy changes. To learn more, visit our website at akronchildrens.org/safekids.

