



### TOP TEN ERRORS IN CAR SEAT USE

- Car seat secured using seatbelt that is mounted on car door.
- Using car seat after the seat has been in a car accident.
- Parents do not read automobile manual or car seat manual.
- Infant seat facing forward instead of rearward.
- No locking clip used when one is necessary or placing it in wrong location on seatbelt.
- Car seat at improper angle (45 degrees for infants rear facing, upright for toddlers).
- Placing car seat in front seat with an airbag.
- Harness straps too loose; harness tie clip too low.
- Child too young or small to be forward-facing.
- Car seat not secured tight enough.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Children under age of twelve (12) should not ride in the front seat.
- Car seat should be secured in the center of backseat.
- Toddlers should ride rear-facing as long as they meet the requirements on the car seat.
- Car seat should not move from side to side more than 1 inch with 10 pounds of pressure.
- Unrestrained children are three times more likely to be injured than those who are restrained.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 4 to 14.
- Read instructions for car seat and vehicle owner's manual to make sure they are compatible.

### CHILD SAFETY SEAT APPOINTMENT

Call **434.531.6614** or  
e-mail **carseats@albemarle.org**  
to schedule your appointment.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_



**County of Albemarle**  
**Department of Fire Rescue**  
460 Stagecoach Road, Suite F  
Charlottesville, VA 22902-6489  
Voice: 434.296.5833  
FAX: 434.972.4123  
[www.ACFireRescue.org](http://www.ACFireRescue.org)

# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

*An awareness program promoting proper child passenger safety*



# Precious Cargo

The most precious cargo we travel with is children. Merchandise can be replaced. Vehicles can be replaced. A child can never be replaced! A staggering 80-90% of all children in the U.S. who should be restrained in a booster seat are not. Children who have outgrown their child safety seat, but who are still less than 4'9", are safer sitting in a booster seat, rather than immediately transitioning to an adult safety belt.

Albemarle County Department of Fire and Rescue has a Child Safety Seat Inspection Program. This program provides appointments for education and installation that are free-of-charge. The program is designed to teach the public how to properly secure their safety seat and fasten children in the seat. The department will also inspect the safety seat as it is currently installed in the vehicle.



**Appointment times  
vary from week to week.**

**Schedule your child safety seat inspection  
by calling 434.531.6614 or by e-mail  
carseats@albemarle.org**

## VIRGINIA LAW

(Code of Virginia Article 13 - Section 46.2)

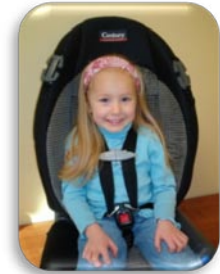
**Effective 2007:** Child restraint devices are required for children through the age of seven (until the eighth birthday). Safety seats must be properly used and approved by Department of Transportation standards.

Effective July 1, 2002: A \$50 civil penalty fine is imposed for failure to have a child in a child restraint device. A \$20 civil penalty fine is assessed when persons transporting a child exempted from this law due to medical reasons do not carry a written statement of the exemption. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.



## INFANTS

- Infants until at least one (1) year old and at least 20 pounds should be in a rear-facing safety seat.
- Route harness straps in appropriate slots at or below shoulder level.
- Keep harness straps snug and fasten harness clip at armpit level.
- Infant carrying handle should be in riding position.
- Recline a rear-facing safety seat to the proper angle; never more than 45 degrees.
- Seats should never be secured in front of airbags.



## TODDLERS

- Kids over one (1) year and weighing more than 20 pounds can be in a forward-facing seat.
- It is recommended that the child remain rear-facing as long as possible. This offers the best protection for your child.
- Keep harness straps snug.
- Route harness straps in upper slots at or above shoulder level.
- Fasten harness clip at armpit level.



## CHILDREN

(About Ages 4 to 8)

- Kids about age four (4) to at least age eight (8) and under 4'9" tall should be in booster seats.
- These seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belts.
- Children these sizes are too small to fit correctly in adult safety belts alone.
- Kids at least eight (8) years old or over 4'9" tall can correctly fit in lap/shoulder belts.
- Lap and shoulder belts fit over the hips, across the chest and snug over the shoulder.