

Children, child restraints and airbags

Front airbags

- Rear-facing child restraints must always be placed in the back seat if there is a front seat airbag.
- The back of a rear-facing child restraint is very close to the dashboard (where the airbag comes out) and if the child restraint is hit by the inflating airbag, the baby could be seriously hurt or even killed.



- A forward-facing child restraint should only be put in the front seat if all the other seating positions are taken. The vehicle seat should be moved back as far as possible.
- If an older child has to sit in the front you should move the vehicle seat back as far as possible.

Side airbags

- Side airbag systems can come out from lots of places – the door, the seat, the roof. If you have to place a child restraint beside the door, make sure there are no toys, blankets or other objects between the child restraint and the door. Encourage your child not to lean out of the child restraint.



Where to go for more help and advice

- Safe2Go, a joint initiative between Land Transport New Zealand and the Accident Compensation Corporation, trains Safe2Go technicians in the correct installation and use of child restraints.
- Safe2Go technicians are available to help you to use your child restraint correctly. They can show you the best restraint for your child and show you how to fit it properly.
- To locate a Safe2Go technician near you, check out:

www.safe2go.co.nz

or call 0800 CHILD SAFETY (244 537)



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Child restraints save lives!

IT IS LAW IN NEW ZEALAND THAT YOU USE ONE FOR YOUR CHILD.



Not all child restraints fit in all vehicles. Try fitting the child restraint in your vehicle before you buy or hire it to see if it fits well.



Stage one

Infant restraint (birth to 9 kg) or convertible restraint (birth to 18 kg)

Points to remember when you fit the infant or convertible restraint in your vehicle

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- The back seat is the safest place for an infant restraint.
- Never place a rear-facing restraint on the front seat if there is an airbag.
- Babies are better protected in a rear-facing restraint until they are one year old.
- If your child restraint wobbles, try it in another place in the vehicle. A locking clip will help hold the restraint firmly.



Points to remember when you put your baby in the infant or convertible restraint

- If there is a chest clip, ensure it is at chest level.
- The harness should be firm against your baby and go over the baby's shoulders.
- Any blankets should be put over the baby once the harness is on, NOT under the harness.

Babies have outgrown the child restraint when they are over the recommended weight, or their head reaches the top of the child restraint. Now is time to move to stage two.

Stage two

Convertible child restraint (birth to 18 kg) or front-facing child restraint (8–18 kg)

Points to remember when you place a child restraint in your vehicle

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- The back seat is the safest place for a child restraint.
- If the vehicle has airbags, avoid putting the child restraint in the front seat.
- Put your weight into the child restraint as you tighten the safety belt around it to help you get a tight fit.
- If your child restraint comes with a tether strap it must be used.
- The tether strap clips in to an anchor bolt on the vehicle and holds the top of the restraint in place. In many vehicles the attachment point for the tether is in place; check the vehicle manual.

Points to remember when you place your child in the child restraint

- The chest clip, if provided, should be placed at chest level.
- The harness should be firm against your child and always go over the shoulders.
- The shoulder harness should be moved up as your child grows. With some convertible restraints, you can use only the top shoulder harness slots when forward-facing.

Your child has outgrown the child restraint when they are over the recommended weight, and their eyes are level with the top of the child restraint. Now it is time to move to stage three.



Stage three

Booster seat (14 to 26 kg) and harness (14 to 32 kg)

Points to remember when using a booster seat

- A booster seat can be used for an older child. Use your child restraint as long as your child fits it as it offers more protection in a crash.
- A booster seat will raise a child to window level and improve the fit of the vehicle safety belt.
- Make sure the diagonal safety belt goes through the guide and over the shoulder, not across the child's neck.
- If you only have a lap safety belt, use a booster seat with a child harness.

Points to remember when using a child safety harness

- A child safety harness can be used with your child sitting on the vehicle seat or with your child in a booster seat.
- A child safety harness can be used with either the lap or the lap/diagonal safety belt.
- The harness needs to be secured to an anchor point on the parcel tray or the back of a hatchback or station wagon. Many vehicles have anchor points built in – check the vehicle manual.
- Make sure the harness fits snugly against your child's chest and that the lap belt is firm and situated low across the child's pelvis.