



THE BACK SEAT IS SAFEST.
Children ages 12 and younger are safest when properly buckled in the back seat.

Transportation of Children

Transportation is a key issue for child care programs. It begins with the safe and well supervised arrival and departure of children each day. "Buckle-up" policies and precautions to prevent back-over injuries and heatstroke help keep children safe. Plans also need to be in place for transporting children in the event of an emergency.



Iowa Child Restraint Laws

- Children under **1 year of age and 20 pounds** must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system in the back seat.
- Children age **1–6 years** old must be secured in a child restraint system in the back seat.
- Children age **6–11 years** must be secured in a child restraint system or a safety belt in the back seat.
- Children age **12–18 years** whether in front or back seat must be secured by a safety belt.

CHILD CAR SEAT GUIDE		
Age Group	Type of Safety Device	General Guidelines
Birth up to age 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear-facing only • Rear-facing convertible 	Buckle children in a rear-facing back seat until age 2 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of that seat.
Age 2 up to at least age 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convertible • Forward-facing with harness 	When children outgrow their rear-facing back seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat until at least age 5 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of that seat.
Age 5 up until the seat belts fit properly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booster seats 	Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat until seat belts fit properly. The recommended height for proper seat belt fit is 57 inches tall (4 feet 9 inches).
Older children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lap and shoulder seat belts 	Children no longer need to use a booster seat once seat belts fit them properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck). Child's bottom should be up against seat back, knees bent over seat and feet on the floor.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY



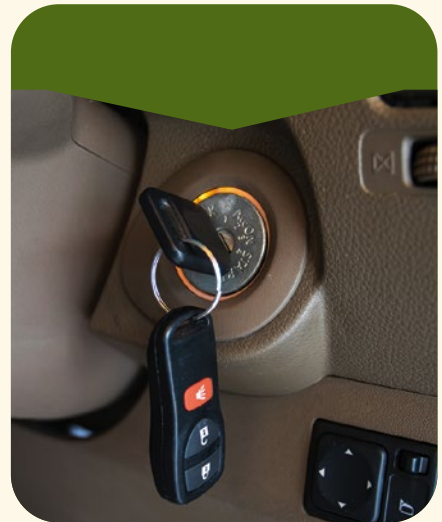
Safe Practices

- Follow both your **child safety seat instructions** and **vehicle owner's manual instructions**.
- Avoid adding items to car seats such as toys which could injure child in a crash.
- Check the expiration date of car seats.
- Accident? Check your car seat's owner's manual for replacement recommendations.
- Do not leave children in the vehicle unattended.



Prevent Back-over

- Always walk around the vehicle and check the area around it before backing up.
- Teach children to move away from a vehicle when a driver gets in it or if the car is started.
- Children can be unpredictable, actively check your mirrors while backing up.
- Use back-up cameras and sensors, but do not rely on them solely.



Prevent Heatstroke

- **NEVER** let children play in an unattended car.
- **NEVER** leave a child alone in a parked car.
- **ALWAYS** look in both the front and back seat before locking a vehicle.
- Lock your car and keep your keys out of a child's reach.

Transporting Children—Driver Safety

- Keep emergency contact information and equipment in the vehicle (first aid, map, cell phone, fire extinguisher).
- Maintain adequate staffing and supervision of children. Do not attempt to provide behavioral guidance to children while driving; pull off the road to address any situations.
- Keep signed authorization for every child and a list of all passengers.
- Drivers should have a valid license and a safe driving record.
- Drivers should not have a medical condition that would compromise driving.
- Drivers should not use tobacco or alcohol while driving.
- Keep driver's license numbers, date of expiration, copies of vehicle insurance, and verification of current state vehicle inspection on file in your child care program.