

If you're a member of a carpool or are planning to start one with neighbors and friends, make sure everyone rides safely. Follow these important guidelines:

- Check that each car has one usable safety belt for each person in your carpool, including the driver and babies and small children who ride in car safety seats.
- Provide a lap and shoulder belt for adults and children who have outgrown a safety seat with its own harness.
- Ask all your drivers to pledge to buckle up themselves and their passengers before every ride.
- Never transport children in the cargo area of a station wagon, pickup truck, hatchback, or van. Children should not ride in side-facing seats of RV's or trucks.
- Let all the children in your carpool know in advance that they will be expected to behave properly in the car and that they must always ride buckled up.
- Help your younger passengers behave by encouraging them to sing together, by talking to them, or by providing them with soft toys or books. Praise them for being good passengers and be firm about stopping undesirable behavior.



TIPS ON BUCKLING UP FOR CARPOOLS

- All children should ride buckled up in the back seat, since it is the safest part of the car.
- Never put a rear-facing infant in the front seat if there is a passenger air bag.
- Children under 40 lbs. should ride in a safety seat with a harness for best protection.
- Children who have outgrown safety seats with a harness need to ride in a safety booster seat until they can pass "The 5-Step Test" (available at www.carseat.org).
- Never put two people in one belt.
- Instruct your own children to insist on wearing safety belts any time they ride in a car without you.



OTHER CAR SAFETY TIPS

- Choose responsible drivers with well-maintained vehicles.
- Plan pickup points carefully. Avoid backing up where young children are pedestrians.
- Keep sharp or heavy objects in the trunk or on the floor.
- Keep doors locked and windows open only slightly.
- For more formal trips, be sure your school or other group has a firm policy on safety belt use and states the policy clearly on permission slips.
- Never leave a child unattended in or around a vehicle.



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