



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Safety Recommendations (1 - 3 years)

Colorado's child passenger safety experts support the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) guidelines, which advise parents and caregivers to keep children in the appropriate child safety restraint type — including rear-facing, forward-facing and booster seats — as long as children fit within the height and weight limits set by the car seat's manufacturer. These guidelines are consistent with the latest advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Car Seat Guidelines



1-3 years

New guidelines include keeping babies and toddlers in the rear-facing position in the back seat of the vehicle until at least age 2, or until they reach the maximum weight and height limit set by car seat manufacturer. Rear-facing position reduces injury to the neck and spinal cord of developing babies during a crash.

Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, he or she is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

Once babies turn 1 year-old and weigh at least 20 pounds, the law gives them the option of using a front-facing car seat.

Follow the car seat manufacturer's recommendations for installation. If you'd like assistance installing the car seat, [find an Inspection Station near you](#).

All child passenger safety violations are primary enforcement and the minimum fine is \$82 per violation. This means that the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained child in the vehicle.

For parents facing financial hardship, some Inspection Stations provide car seats at a reduced price or for a small donation.



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Safety Recommendations (Birth - 12 months)

Colorado's child passenger safety experts support the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) guidelines, which advise parents and caregivers to keep children in the appropriate child safety restraint type — including rear-facing, forward-facing and booster seats — as long as children fit within the height and weight limits set by the car seat's manufacturer. These guidelines are consistent with the latest advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Car Seat Guidelines



Birth – 12 months

Safety experts recommend that babies under 1 year and less than 20 pounds must ride in a rear-facing car seat and only in the back seat of the vehicle. This is the law in Colorado.

Follow the car seat manufacturer's recommendations for installation. If you'd like assistance installing the car seat, [find an Inspection Station near you.](#)

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