Keep Your Child Safe in the Car

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for children in Arkansas. It’s important to choose and properly install the correct car seat. You never know when or if a crash may occur. It only takes a moment to protect your child from being hurt or killed.

Four Steps to Child Passenger Safety

1. Rear-Facing
   Children should ride rear-facing until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the upper weight and height limit of their car seat. The American Academy of Pediatrics says to keep your child rear-facing as long as possible to keep them safer. Check your car seat. Some seats can stay rear-facing up to 35 pounds.

2. Forward-Facing with Harness
   Children should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness until they outgrow it (usually at around 4 years of age and about 40 pounds).

3. Booster Seat
   Children should sit in a booster seat until the adult seat belt fits correctly. The seat belt fits correctly if it lies across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lies across the shoulder and chest (not the neck).

4. Seat Belt for LIFE!
   Children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old. If adults buckle up, they are much more likely to buckle up their child. Set an example of safe driving and riding by buckling up on every trip!

Child Passenger Safety Checklist

**Rear-Facing**
- Harness straps in slots at or below baby’s shoulders to hold child down in seat
- Harness straps snug
- Harness clip at armpit level

**Forward-Facing**
- Harness straps in slots at or above child’s shoulders to hold child back in the seat
- Harness straps snug
- Harness clip at armpit level

**Booster Seat**
- Use lap and shoulder belt
- Lap and shoulder belt fit correctly across the child’s upper thighs and across the child’s collarbone (not across the neck or face)

**Seat Belt for LIFE!**
- Child in back seat until 13 years old
- Driver and all passengers buckled up