

Child Safety & Car Seats—Simplified

After a child's first birthday, accidents become the number 1 threat to a child's life. Car accidents are the most deadly of any single cause, especially in children less than four years of age. Because of this, many states including the state of Utah, have enacted car seat laws to protect its youngest citizens.

This brief article will attempt to outline the basics of the Utah law in a concise and understandable fashion and will provide links to sources outlining rating different car seats as well as safety inspection sites throughout the state where your car seats can be checked.

Car Seat Law:

All infants must be in a backward-facing car seat until one year **and** twenty pounds. Thereafter, backward facing is still a safer position.

Older than 12 months and between 20-40 pounds, a child may be in a forward-facing car seat.

Children less than eight years **and** less than 57 inches tall must be in either a car seat or booster seat. The booster seat helps the shoulder and lap belt fit a small child more safely.

Children older than eight must be restrained in a seat/shoulder belt.

List of car seats, safety, and ease of use:

http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/nhtsa_eou/info.jsp?type=all

Link to list of car seats by brand and price range:

<http://patiented.aap.org/AtoZIndex.aspx?letter=C>

Then click on the link: [Car Safety Seats: A Guide for Families: Part II 2010 Product Information](#) ()
PDF: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Nationally certified, local car seat inspection sites:

<http://intermountainhealthcare.org/hospitals/primarychildrens/childhealth/parenting/Documents/InspStationsRevised08.pdf>

Great reference source for car seat safety and instruction for proper car seat use:

<http://intermountainhealthcare.org/hospitals/primarychildrens/childhealth/parenting/carseats/Pages/home.aspx>