

Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Restraints

Oklahoma's Child Passenger Safety Law

Birth - 2 Years: Rear-Facing

All children under age 2 must be properly secured in a rear-facing car seat.

- Rear-facing is the safest way for small children to travel.
- They should remain rear-facing until they reach 2 years of age or until they exceed the height and weight limit of the car seat.

2 - 4 Years: Forward-Facing

All children under age 4 must be properly secured in a car seat with an internal harness.

- A 5-point harness is the safest restraint system and should be used as long as possible (until the child exceeds the harness' weight limit).

4 - 8 Years: Booster

All children at least 4 years old (but younger than age 8) must ride in a child passenger restraint system or booster seat, unless they are taller than 4' 9".

- A booster seat should be used until the child can properly fit into a seat belt.

8 Years and Older: Seat Belt

All children taller than 4' 9" (or age 8 and up) should be restrained in a seat belt.

- Front seat airbags may hurt small children
- Riding in the back seat of the vehicle is the safest way for children to travel.
- It is recommended that children under 13 years of age ride in the back seat.

5 Ways Restraints Prevent Injury (By Safe Kids)

- Prevent ejection.
- Contact the strongest parts of the body.
- Spread forces over a wide area of the body.
- Help the body to "ride down" the crash.
- Protect the head and spinal cord.