

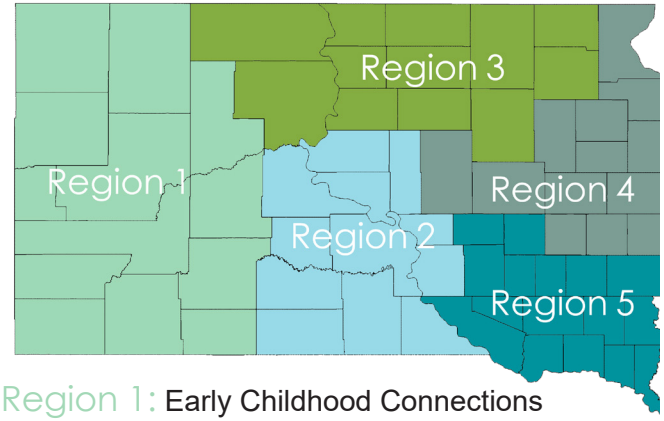
Did you know?

- ✓ Effective July 1, 2001, all occupants of a vehicle 17 years of age and under must be buckled up.
- ✓ Children under 5 years of age and under 40 pounds are required to use an approved child safety seat in all seating positions. This is a primary offense, which means a driver can be stopped for having children or youth not restrained in their vehicle even without another violation.
- ✓ Drivers are responsible for all passengers 0-17 years old, which means drivers can be ticketed for not having children or youth properly restrained.
- ✓ All operators and passengers 14-17 years old are responsible for buckling up themselves, which means passengers can be ticketed too. The violation is a petty offense ($25 fine).
- ✓ No ticket will be issued for vehicles manufactured before 1966 that have not been equipped with seat belts.

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Contact Us

The Child Safety Seat Distribution program is a program developed to keep kids safe by making sure they are in the best child safety seat for their height and weight until they are at least 4'9". To learn if you qualify for a child seat, contact a program in your region.



Region 1: Early Childhood Connections
3645 Sturgis Rd, Suite 110
Rapid City, SD 57702
605.342.6464 or 888.999.7759

Region 2: The Right Turn
115 E Sioux Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.4755 or 866.206.8206

Region 3: Sanford Children's CHILD Services
2905 3rd Ave SE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.226.5675 or 800.982.6404

Region 4: Child & Family Resource Network
SDSU, Box 2218
Brookings, SD 57007
605.688.5730 or 800.354.8238

Region 5: Sanford Children's CHILD Services
5015 S Western Ave, Suite 120
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605.312.8390 or 800.235.5923

South Dakota Department of Social Services
800.227.3020

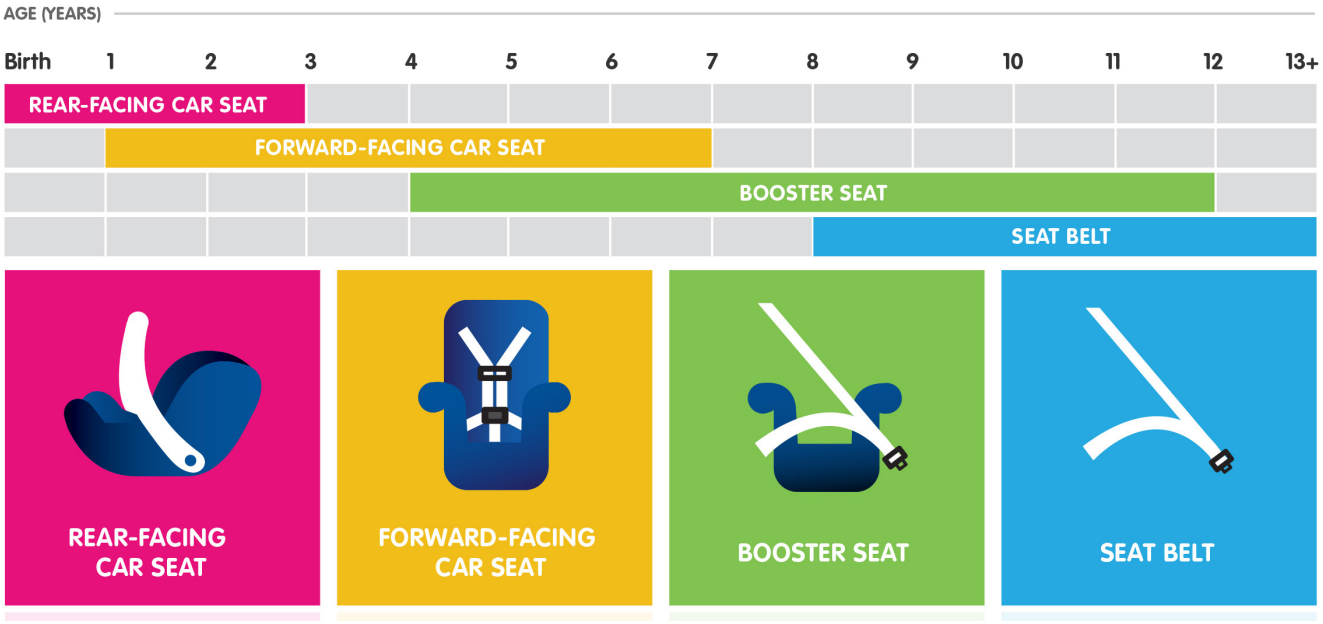


South Dakota Child Safety Seat Distribution Program

South Dakota Department of Social Services

Child Safety Seat Recommendations for Children

It's important to remember the "best" child safety seat is the one that correctly fits the child, the vehicle and is used correctly every time.





Types of Child Safety Restraints

REAR-FACING SEATS: The best way to keep your child safe is to place them in a rear-facing seat for as long as possible. Both infant and convertible car seats are rear-facing. All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, up to the limits of their child safety seat.

FORWARD-FACING SEATS: Once your child has reached the weight or height limits for a rear-facing seat they are ready to move to a forward-facing seat with the necessary harness to keep your child safe. Children should remain in a forward-facing seat with harness until they have reached the weight or height limits.

BOOSTER SEAT: Booster seats are for children who have exceeded the height or weight limits of a forward-facing seat with harness. To properly fit a seat belt, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should be snug across the shoulder and chest. The belt should not cross the neck or face.

SEAT BELT: Before getting rid of a booster seat, make sure the seat belt properly fits using the same guidelines mentioned above, but without the booster seat. NEVER put the belt under the child's arm or behind their back. Remember, the safest place for your child to ride is in the back seat.

Child Safety Seat Tips

- ✓ Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- ✓ Children should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, up to the limits of their car safety seat.
- ✓ Keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, which is as long as your child fits the seat's height and weight requirements.
- ✓ Keep your child in the back seat until they reach at least 13 years of age.
- ✓ Your child should use a booster seat until they are 4 feet 9 inches (57 inches) tall and are between 8 and 12 years of age, when regular seat belts are most likely to fit properly.
- ✓ Be sure all occupants wear their seat belts correctly every time.