



MOONACHIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

70 Moonachie Road Moonachie, NJ 07074

Telephone: 201.641.9100 Fax: 201.641.9157

Letter to Parents & Guardians

Dear Parent, Guardian, Child Care Provider,

Every year motor vehicle crashes take the lives of hundreds of young children leaving behind heartbroken parents, family members, and friends. Parents and caregivers are urged to make sure their child safety seats are properly installed in the vehicles.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration research; 10,673 lives have been saved by the proper use of child restraints during the past 40 years. In 2014, among children 4 years old and younger, an estimated 252 lives were saved by child restraint use. Research shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age 8, after which seat belts provide the best protection.

While the lifesaving effects are indisputable, child restraints work best when used properly. According to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed. It is important for parents and caregivers to carefully read the child safety seat instructions, in addition to the vehicle owner's manual instructions regarding installing a safety seat. They should also get their child restraint inspected by a certified technician to make sure they installed it correctly. Finally, all parents and caregivers should refer to the following 4 steps for guidelines to make certain children are secured properly in appropriate seats:

Any child under the age of 8 years old and a height of 57 inches shall be secured as follows in the rear seat of a motor vehicle.

- 1) For the best possible protection, keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible. A child under the age of 2 years and 30 pounds shall be secured in a rear-facing seat equipped with a 5-point harness particular seat.
- 2) A child under the age of 4 years and 40 pounds shall be secured as described in (a) until they reach the upper limits of the rear-facing seat, then in a forward-facing child restraint equipped with a 5-point harness.
- 3) A child under the age of 8 and a height of 57 inches shall be secured as described in (a) or (b) until they reach the upper limits of the rear-facing or forward facing seat, then in a belt positioning booster seat.
- 4) A child over 8 years of age or 57 inches in height must be properly secured by a seat belt.

If there are no rear seats, the child shall be secured as described above in the front seat except that no child shall be secured in a rear-facing seat in the front seat of any vehicle that is equipped with an active passenger-side airbag. The aforementioned is acceptable if the airbag is de-activated.

For more information about Child Passenger Safety, visit the following websites:

www.safekids.org www.nj.gov/oag/hts

As always the Moonachie Police Department will remain vigilant in the enforcement of child safety restraints in the borders of our Borough. So please remember to follow the above laws regarding child restraints, to avoid being issued a summons and most importantly the safety of your children.

Respectfully Yours
Sgt. Victor Migliorino
School Resource Officer / Traffic Unit Supervisor

Using the correct car seat or booster seat can be a lifesaver: make sure your child is always buckled in an age- and size-appropriate car seat or booster seat.



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Birth up to Age 2*
Buckle children in a rear-facing seat until age 2 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of that seat.



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Age 2 up to at least age 5*
When children outgrow their rear-facing seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat until at least age 5 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of that seat.



BOOSTER SEAT

Age 5 up until seat belts fit properly*
Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat until seat belts fit properly. The recommended height for proper seat belt fit is 57 inches tall.



SEAT BELT

Once seat belts fit properly without a booster seat
Children no longer need to use a booster seat once seat belts fit them properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).

Keep children ages 12 and under in the back seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag.

**Recommended age ranges for each seat type vary to account for differences in child growth and height/weight limits of car seats and booster seats. Use the car seat or booster seat owner's manual to check installation and the seat height/weight limits, and proper seat use.*

Child safety seat recommendations: American Academy of Pediatrics.
Graphic design: adapted from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/cps

