

May 2010

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

CAR SEAT SAFETY

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, it is estimated that close to 3 out of 4 parents do not properly use child restraints when traveling in a motor vehicle. Often this is due to lack of knowledge of how to properly install child safety seats. You can use this link [Child Safety Seat Inspection Station Locator](#) to find a place to have your safety seat inspected and be shown proper installation.

As car seat recommendations and models continue to change, it is important for parents and caretakers to stay up with the latest information to keep kids as safe as possible. There are several different types and models available. Some usage relates to the state law, while other usage recommendations relate to the age and weight of the child.

Missouri law requires that all children under the age of four be secured in an approved child safety seat.

In Missouri, it is also



If you are of the 3 out of 4 parents who don't properly use safety seats, your child may not be protected from injury.

recommended according to the Department of Health and Senior Services, to keep your baby facing the rear of the vehicle until they are one year of age and twenty pounds. Also, remember the safest position is in the back seat. **Never** put your baby in the front seat with a passenger air bag unless the air bag has been turned off.

Also, make sure the safety seat reclines far enough that the baby's head doesn't fall forward. You may use a tightly rolled towel or receiving blanket under the front edge of the safety seat if needed to tilt it back in

order to achieve the correct angle; however this should be no more than 45-degrees.

As with most situations your child is only as safe as you are, so always remember to buckle up yourself and other passengers, as often children are hurt when others hit or crush them in an accident after not being properly restrained as well.

For additional information, call the MO Division of Highway Safety at 1-800-800-BELT.

Special Points of Interest

- [Car Seat Safety](#)
- [Car Seat Checklist](#)
- [Child Restraint Laws by State](#)
- [Car Seat Safety: Information for Families in 2010](#)
- [Car Seat Safety Quiz](#)
- [Safety in the Car](#)

