

Child Restraints Save Lives
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I recall my dad driving down Preston Highway in Louisville, with me sitting on his lap and helping to steer the car. My Dad was a very good parent, but completely unaware of the danger he was placing me in.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, “Motor Vehicle Crashes are the leading cause of death for children aged 5 – 14.” In the U.S. approximately 8 children aged 0 – 14 are killed and 899 children aged 0 – 14 are injured per day in vehicle crashes. 69% of children who were killed were unrestrained.

I am pleading with everyone to please restrain their children, so your family never has to hear that their child’s death could have been prevented, if only you would have restrained your child.

In the state of Indiana, the child restraint law is as follows:

Any child up to and including children seven years of age must be properly fastened and restrained, according to the child restraint manufacturer’s instructions. Youth 8 years until they reach their 16th birthday must be properly restrained in a child safety seat or seat belt, in all vehicles, including vehicles with truck plates. It is strongly recommended all children be placed in the rear seat of a vehicle, where it is safest.

From birth, and at least 5 pounds – age 1, and at least 20 pounds, your child should be in a rear facing infant seat. A child should not be placed in a forward facing child seat until they are at least 1 year old and over 20 pounds.

If your child weighs less than 5 pounds, you need to look into renting a preemie car bed from the hospital.

A forward facing child seat should be used from 1 – 4 years of age, for children 20 – 40 pounds.

A belt positioning booster seat can be used for children age 4- 8, who are 40 – 80 pounds and up to 4’9” tall. Booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt. Never use a lap belt by itself, with a booster seat.

Your children trust you to make the right decision. Please buckle them up!

Research for this article was obtained with the assistance of the Indiana State Police at www.in.gov/isp and www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title9/ar19/ch11.html.