

Child Passenger Safety Resources for Santa Cruz County



Rear-Facing Seat

California law requires children who are **under the age of 2** to ride in the back seat in a **rear-facing car seat** unless they weigh 40 pounds or more, or are 40" tall or more.



The harness straps should be even with or **below** the shoulders.



Forward-Facing Seat or Booster

Children **under the age of 8** must be buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.

Harness straps should be even with or **above** the shoulders.



Children who have outgrown their car seat's 5-point harness by height or weight may be ready for a booster.



Booster Seat

Seat belts don't usually fit until a child is about **4' 9" tall**. When your child sits with their back against the back of the seat:


- Do their knees bend comfortably over the front of the seat? Yes No
- Does the shoulder belt cross the center of their shoulder? Yes No
- Does the lap belt touch their thighs? Yes No

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child still needs a booster.



Get your seat checked for free! Call for an appointment.

- California Highway Patrol (831)662-0511
- AAA Watsonville (831) 768-4540
- AAA Capitola/Santa Cruz (831) 824-9128
- Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (831) 438-0211, call 8 am–12 pm
- Watsonville Fire Department (831) 768-3200 (se habla Español)



No-Cost Car Seats

Car seats are available on a limited basis for low-income families. Proof of low-income status or a referral from a community agency is required.

For more information or an appointment call:

(831) 454-4317

(831) 454-5491

