



- **Is LATCH safer than using the seatbelts for installation?**

Not necessarily. A car-seat properly installed with a seatbelt should be as safe as one *properly installed* with LATCH, but LATCH will make it easier to get a proper installation.

- **Can I use both LATCH and the seatbelt?**

Only one or the other is needed, you should generally use the one that provides the best fit.

- **Can I still use a LATCH car-seat in a car that does not have LATCH?**

Yes. All new car-seat models are compatible with seatbelt installations.

*For correct installation and use of all child safety seats, always follow your vehicle owner's manual and child safety seat manufacturer's instructions.*

### Air-Bag Safety

- Never put an infant in the front seat of a vehicle with an air-bag.
- Side air bags improve safety for adults in side impact crashes, but children who are not properly restrained and are seated near a side air-bag may be at risk for serious injury. Check your vehicle owner's manual to see what it says about children and side air-bag's.
- You may have heard recently about new "advanced" air-bags, these make travel safer adults, but it is not yet known how they will affect the safety of children. Even though these new air-bags may be safer, the back seat is still the safest place for children under the age 13 to ride.

Visit the following websites for more info on Child Passenger Safety

[www.NHTSA.gov](http://www.NHTSA.gov)  
[www.safecar.gov](http://www.safecar.gov)  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)  
[www.car-safety.org](http://www.car-safety.org)  
[www.IIHS.org](http://www.IIHS.org)

Easton Police Department

**C**hild  
**P**assenger  
**S**afety



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The Easton Police Department is dedicated to educating and assisting parents/caregivers in providing the highest level of child passenger safety.

We welcome parents/caregivers within the community to meet with the department's Child Passenger Safety Technician for a child passenger restraint inspection. The information, as well as a list of websites, within this brochure is provided to educate and assist you in child passenger safety.

Please contact the Easton Police Department if you have any questions, or to make an appointment with our Child Passenger Safety Technician.

Respectfully,

Chief Allen R. Krajcik

## The Law

M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 7AA

Child Passenger Restraints

Effective July 1st, 2008

No child under age eight and measuring less than fifty-seven inches in height shall ride as a passenger in a motor vehicle on any way unless such child is properly fastened and secured, according to the manufacturer instructions, by a child passenger restraint.

No child who is eight years of age or older, but not older than twelve, shall ride as a passenger in a motor vehicle on any way unless such child is wearing a safety belt which is properly adjusted and fastened according to the manufacturer instructions.

*\*For complete definition of M.G.L. Chapter 90, Sec 7AA please visit:  
[www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)*

## Growing Up Safe

As children grow, how they sit in your vehicle should change. Save your child from injury or death by observing the following four steps:

**1) Rear-Facing:** For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats as long as possible, up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. It is recommended that children remain rear-facing until the age of two or to the weight limit of the child safety seat.

**2) Forward-Facing:** When children outgrow their rear-facing seats they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat.

**3) Booster Seats:** Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belt fits properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest.

**4) Seat Belts:** When children outgrow their booster seats, they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly.

*\*Remember: All children under 13 should ride in the back seat.*