

## Did you know...SOUTH DAKOTA HAS A PRIMARY SEAT BELT LAW COVERING EVERYONE 17 AND UNDER

- Effective July 1, 2001, all occupants of a vehicle 17 years of age and under must be buckled up.
- Children under 5 years of age and under 40 pounds are required to use an approved child safety seat in all seating positions.
- This is a primary offense, which means a driver can be stopped for having children or youth not restrained in their vehicle even without another violation.
- Drivers are responsible for all passengers 0-17, which means you can be ticketed for not having children or youth properly restrained.
- All operators and passengers between 14 and 17 are responsible for buckling up themselves, which means passengers can be ticketed, too.
- The violation is a petty offense. (\$20 fine)
- No ticket will be issued for violations in a vehicle manufactured before 1966 that has not been equipped with seat belts.



# Car Seats projects



Research tells us that 9 out of 10 car seats are installed incorrectly!

Take the time to learn how to install your child's car seat.

## The Facts

According to our National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, most children need to ride in a car seat until they are at least 8 years old. At 8 years, most children are the appropriate height and weight (4'9" and more than 80 pounds) to safely ride in a seatbelt.

## Project 8 - South Dakota's Car Seat Program

Project 8, the Governor's Child Seat Program, wants to keep kids safe by making sure they are in the best child seat for their height and weight, until they are at least 8 years old. Remember, seats must also be properly installed to be effective.

## Free Service

Trained car seat technicians are available at the community sites listed in this brochure to help teach you how to install your child's seat correctly.

Project 8 also distributes child seats to income eligible families who reside in South Dakota. Those interested in receiving a seat must show proof of financial need, such as Medicaid, WIC, CHIP, Child Care Assistance or Head Start enrollment.

## Car Seat Guidelines

### INFANTS

Age: Birth to 1 year  
 Weight: Up to 35 pounds  
 Type of Seat: Infant-only or Rear-facing  
 Convertible  
 Direction to Face: Infants should ride rear-facing to at least 1 year of age AND at least 20 pounds. The seat should be at a 45-degree angle to keep the child's head from falling forward. Do not tip it too far back or the child could come out of the seat in a crash.  
 Note: Infants who outgrow an infant-only seat before 1 year of age should ride rear-facing in a convertible child seat.

### TODDLERS

Age: Older than 1 year  
 Weight: 20 pounds to 40 pounds  
 Type of Seat: Convertible or Forward-facing Only  
 Direction to Face: A child older than 1 year of age AND heavier than 20 pounds may ride facing forward. Use the upright position recommended by the manufacturer.  
 Note: Secure a child in a child seat with a full harness until he/she is heavier than 40 pounds. A child heavier than 40 pounds should move to a booster seat.

seat.  
**YOUNG CHILDREN**  
 Age: Until at least 8 years old  
 Weight: Heavier than 40 pounds  
 Type of Seat: Belt-positioning Booster Seat, or High-back Booster Seat  
 Direction to Face: Forward-Facing  
 Note: All children who have outgrown infant or convertible child seats should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, meet weight limit of booster seat or are 4' 9".



## · SIOUX FALLS EDUCATION/INSPECTION RESOURCES

| Name                                   | Address                   | Phone #  | Resource Information   |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Sanford Children's C.H.I.L.D. Services | 1115 W. 41st St           | 333-0698   | Education/Inspections by Appointment or – C.H.I.L.D. Services Walk-In Monday – Friday 9am – 3:00pm                     |
| Law Enforcement Center                 | 320 W. 4th St.            | Officer Pottebaum 367-7230 or Officer Flora 367-7232 | Call for appointment.  |
| Triple AAA                             | 1300 N. Industrial Avenue | 336-3690   | Call for appointment.  |
| Sioux Falls Fire Rescue                | 2820 S. Minnesota         | 367-7174   | Education/Inspections available every Saturday 9:00 – 11:00am (Please go to service door and ring bell for assistance) |

**Car Seat Assistance Program** Car Seats for children birth to eight are available for parents meeting program eligibility requirements. If a parent is currently on a South Dakota State subsidy program he/she meets the eligibility requirements. Car seats are available at the above locations while supplies last.