

## FREE CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians provide inspections regarding car seats and proper installation. It is highly recommended that your child be present to ensure a proper fit.

### SANFORD CHILDREN'S CHILD SERVICES

1115 W. 41st Street  
(605) 312-8370

Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Education/inspections by appointment or walk-in appointments as available.

## PARENTING SERVICES

Sanford Children's Parenting Services has a variety of resources to help you during your parenting years.

### PARENTING COACHING

- One to one sessions to discuss individual parenting questions

### GET TO KNOW YOUR CHILD BETTER

- Temperament reports

### DEVELOPMENT CHECKLISTS

- Age specific overviews of your child's developmental milestones

### INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES

- Everyday topics to support parents with everyday issues

### EVERYDAY PARENTING CLASSES

- Get answers to common parent questions
- Some classes are available live via the internet



[SANFORD CHILDREN'S SAFETY CENTER]

Through the eyes of a child...

I may wiggle and squirm  
but I want to travel safe.



SANFORD CHILDREN'S SAFETY CENTER | CHILD SERVICES  
1115 W. 41ST STREET | SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105 | (605) 312-8370

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## CHILD SAFETY TIPS

9 out of 10 child safety seats are used incorrectly, putting infants and children at risk for serious injury in the event of a crash. Car crashes are one of the leading causes of death for children from 1 to 14 years old. This is why the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends the following.

- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle that you will use correctly every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the manufacturer's maximum weight or height of their seat.
- Keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as your child fits the seat's height and weight requirements.
- Your child should use a booster seat until they are 4 feet 9 inches (57 inches) tall and are between 8 and 12 years of age, when regular seat belts are most likely to fit properly.
- All children under 13 should ride in the back seat.

## SOUTH DAKOTA'S CHILD SAFETY SEAT LAW COVERS EVERYONE AGE 17 AND UNDER

- 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.
- The violation is a petty offense.

## RESTRAINT TYPES

### REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

### FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

### BOOSTER SEAT

positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

### SEAT BELT

should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

{ CAR CRASHES ARE ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN FROM 1 TO 14 YEARS OLD. }

## CAR SEAT RECOMMENDATIONS

### BIRTH TO 12 MONTHS

Your child should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the manufacturer's maximum weight or height of the seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

### 1 TO 3 YEARS

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

### 4 TO 7 YEARS

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

### 8 TO 12 YEARS

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.