

Children over 7 years

If your child is over 7 years and still fits in their booster seat (up to 26 kg), keep using it.

For families with three or more children

Fitting three child restraints in the back row of your car may be a challenge. There are a variety of child restraints and booster seats available. It will depend on the type chosen, the combination of restraints required and the make and model of your car. If there is not enough space or anchorage points to put a third restraint or booster seat in the rear, then a passenger aged 4 to less than 7 years can be in a booster seat in the front seat. You will need to use a booster seat that does not need to be anchored.

Vehicles with only one row of seats (e.g. vans and utilities)

If a vehicle has only one row of seats, it is legal to fit a child restraint in the front provided there is a seatbelt and a child restraint anchorage point available, unless it is a booster seat that does not need to be anchored.

The van or utility may need to be modified to ensure the safe operation of the child restraint.

For safety reasons, where there is a passenger airbag in the seating position occupied by a child, you should not use a rearward-facing infant restraint. In all other cases the seat should be moved back as far as possible while still allowing correct seatbelt fit.



MORE INFORMATION

For detailed information about selecting and fitting child restraints see: www.ract.com.au or www.kidsafetas.com.au

Or check your local telephone or business directory.



Help when you need it most.



Child Restraints

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

ROAD RULES ARE CHANGING ON 30 NOVEMBER 2009.

For all the details, fact sheets are available from Service Tasmania or at www.dier.tas.gov.au. A full version of the road rules can be viewed at www.thelaw.tas.gov.au

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Department of Infrastructure,
Energy & Resources





KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Using child restraints properly is very effective in preventing and/or reducing injury in a road crash.

The restraint must be approved, match the child's age and weight, be fitted correctly to the vehicle and adjusted to fit the child's body if you want it to provide maximum protection. If the harness is loose or the restraint is not attached securely to the vehicle, it will not protect your child properly in a crash.

Child restraints and new road rules: who and when

From 30 November 2009, all children up to 4 years of age must be secured in a child restraint and from 30 November 2010 this law extends to children aged under 7 years. While the new laws aim to cater for the majority of children, it would be unsafe for a child to use a restraint unsuitable for their height and weight. A child who is too heavy for the restraint recommended for their age should use a restraint for the next age category.

Choose the right child restraint

Child restraints must comply with Australian Safety Standard AS/NZS 1754.

Using a second-hand restraint can be risky. Make sure it is less than 10 years old, has never been involved in a serious crash and is in good condition (no signs of wear on straps, plastic shell is not cracked, buckle is working properly) and ask for the instruction booklet and all the parts.

Install child restraints correctly

As a parent, it's important to know it's not just infants who need approved child restraints. It is vital that restraints are appropriate for the age/weight of the child and are installed and anchored correctly.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly if you are fitting the restraint yourself, or contact the RACT or other child restraint fitting services in your area. Check your telephone or local business directory for details.

Some cars need modification or special accessories to fit a child restraint correctly. If your vehicle does not have an anchorage point you may need to get one made.

A child restraint that has not been fitted properly can result in serious injury or even the death of a child in a crash.

Children under 6 months



Children under 6 months of age must use an approved rearward-facing child restraint. A rearward-facing child restraint allows a child to lie down and, in a crash, gives support and protection to the head and neck – the most vulnerable parts of a child's body.

The restraint must be placed in the back seat, unless your car does not have a back seat. For safety reasons a rearward-facing child restraint should not be used in the front seat where there is a passenger airbag.

Children 6 months to under 4 years



Children in this age group must travel only in the back seat (if your car does not have a rear row, this part of the rule does not apply).

Children grow at different rates between the age of 6 months and 4 years, so a child may use **either** a rearward-facing child restraint **or** a forward-facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness.

Because rearward-facing travel is safer, you should move your children to a forward-facing child restraint only when they have reached the weight or length limit of their rearward-facing child restraint. Just because a child has turned 6 months does not mean the child is ready to be placed in a forward-facing child restraint.

Children 4 to under 7 years



Children in this age group must not travel in the front seat of a vehicle that has a back row or rows unless all the other back seats are occupied by children who are also under 7 years. Children in this age group vary considerably in height and weight.

From 30 November 2010

A child aged 4 to under 7 years must use **either** a forward-facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness **or** an approved booster seat with a lap-sash seatbelt that is properly adjusted and fastened.

Remember that children grow at different rates. Just because they have turned 4 years does not mean they are ready for a booster seat. If your child is still under 18 kg and fits in the forward-facing child restraint with inbuilt harness, keep using this restraint.