

Explain Why

When your children begin speaking, explain in simple words why they must be restrained. Showing with a doll how safety belts help keep you secure in a crash helps children understand why buckling up is important. End with "I love you so much and want to keep you safe and secure!" Remind your children, "I'm buckling you up because I love you."

Recognize Their Efforts

Remember to praise children when they are safely secured in their seats. Children deserve positive recognition. Encouragement will help establish safe habits. It will also make them feel loved...which is what child safety seats are all about!

ACCORDING TO INDIANA'S CHILD RESTRAINT LAW...

Children **under 8 years of age** must be buckled up in **child restraints** that meet or exceed federal safety standards (look for the label on the seat) when riding in a motor vehicle. Children **ages 8 to 16** must either be in a **child restraint or a safety belt**. This applies to all vehicles including trucks and SUV's. This law also applies to all vehicle seating positions.

If this law is not followed, the driver commits a Class D infraction which carries a \$25 fine.

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They Won't Stay There!

There are certain things children must learn to accept for their own safety – buckling up is one of them. Allowing children to ride unbuckled is no more reasonable than allowing them to play in the street or with electrical sockets.



Start Early

Infants who ride in child safety seats from the start are more likely to stay in safety seats as they get older.

Set An Example

Children learn from your example. If you consistently use safety belts, your children will copy that behavior. Be a good role model and always fasten your safety belt. Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up. Parents need to be protected too!

Check with a Permanent Fitting Station

Permanent fitting stations are staffed with child passenger safety technicians who have received special training in child safety seats. Technicians can make sure you have the right type of child safety seat for your child and that you are using it correctly. To find a permanent fitting station near you, call **1-800-KID-N-CAR.**

Don't Tamper

You might be tempted to try to make child safety seats escape proof. But adding tape, safety pins or other short-term remedies can do more harm than good. Teaching children appropriate behavior in car seats has a more lasting effect. The designs of your children's seats were well thought out – don't tamper with them!

Be Creative

One reason children try to unbuckle is boredom. A bag of soft travel toys will fill the time and keep children content. Have favorite sing-along tapes in your tape player so your children can sing or hum tunes with you. Plan travel games that will also keep your children occupied.

Be Consistent

Always buckle children, even on short trips. Children will be confused if they don't use a safety seat **every time** they ride in the car. Besides, crashes are just as likely to happen on short trips as they are on long journeys.

Be Firm

If children try to get out of their seats, pull over and stop the car. In a firm, serious voice tell them that they must stay in their child safety seat or safety belt and rebuckle them. If they unbuckle again, repeat the same procedure. Be firm and consistent and your children will learn there is no way to get around buckling up.

