

## HOW TO INSTALL A CHILD CAR SEAT

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Most important is that your child's car seat is installed properly.

The easiest way to make sure it is installed properly is to simply contact the Dennis Fire Department and schedule a safety inspection and installation of your car seats.

We will inspect for:

- Proper sizing of seat and restraints
- Recalls
- Defects and age of seat
- Proper installation of the seat

Any problems will be fixed and you will leave with a safe and properly installed seat.

Harnesses need to be very snug at all times. One to two fingers should fit snugly between the harness and the child's collar bone. The Harness clip should be positioned across the center of the child's chest at armpit level.

During winter months, try to limit clothing while in the car and in the car seat. Basically you want the least amount of material between the car seat, the child and the harnesses. You can always use blankets to keep them warm. Remember unlike you, sometimes they can't take off the extra layers in the car and might risk overheating.



Dennis Fire Department  
883 Main St  
West Dennis, Ma. 02670  
Phone (508) 398-2242

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## DENNIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

## CHILD CAR SEAT PROGRAM

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*Child Safety Comes First*



# WHY A CAR SEAT?

## Massachusetts CPS Law

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LAW REQUIRES ALL CHILDREN UNDER 40 POUNDS OR FIVE YEARS OF AGE TO BE RESTRAINED IN A CHILD SAFETY SEAT. STATE LAW THEN REQUIRES ALL CHILDREN TO BE "PROPERLY RESTRAINED". PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AT FIVE YEARS AND 40 POUNDS AN ADULT SEATBELT ALONE WILL NOT "PROPERLY RESTRAIN" A CHILD. A CHILD SHOULD BE USING A BOOSTER SEAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ADULT LAP AND SHOULDER BELT UNTIL THEY ARE 4'9" TALL.



You can go to [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) under Office Public Safety and Child Passenger Safety for more information.

Also Safe Kids Worldwide at [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

## HOW TO SELECT THE PROPER SEAT

### Progression of Child Restraint Seats

#### Infant Carrier Seats – Rear Facing:

- Newborn to approximately 6 months of age
- Weight under 20 pounds
- Height under 26 inches



#### Rear-Facing Convertible Seats:

- 6 months to 1+ years of age
- Weight under 30 pounds
- Top of head at least 1 inch below top of seat



#### Forward-Facing Convertible Seats:

- Over 1 year of age
- Weight under 40 pounds (and over 20)
- Top of shoulders should always be below harness slots on seat
- Child's head is level with or below the top of the child seat

#### Booster Seat with Adult Lap and Shoulder Seat Belt:

- Approximately 4 to 8 years of age
- Weight over 40 pounds
- Height under 4'9"



Always read Child Car Seat Manufacturers instructions on sizing and limitations of seats. Children over 8 years of age, over 80 pounds and taller than 4'9" can use Adult Lap and Shoulder Belts.