

Child Car Passenger Advice

USING A CHILD CAR SEAT OR BOOSTER SEAT

Children must normally use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135cm tall.

TYPES OF CHILD CAR SEAT

Which child car seat to use depends on the child's weight.

Type of seat	Weight
Rear-facing baby seats	Babies up to 13kg
Forward or rear-facing baby seats	Children from 9 to 18kg
Forward-facing child car seats (booster seats)	Children from 15 to 25kg
Booster cushions	Children over 22kg

Only EU-approved child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle.

FITTING A CHILD CAR SEAT

You must:

- only use a child car seat with a seat belt that has a diagonal strap - unless it's specifically designed for use with a lap seat belt
- deactivate any front airbags before fitting a rear-facing baby seat in a front seat
- not fit a child car seat in side-facing seats

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The same rules apply for children with disabilities unless a doctor says they're exempt on medical grounds. They can also use a disabled person's seat belt or child restraint designed for their needs.

MINIBUSES

Minibus drivers and companies don't have to provide child car seats. You must provide your own if you want to make sure a child has one.

Children 3 and older must:

- use a child car seat if there's one available in a minibus
- use an adult seat belt if child seats are not fitted or are unsuitable

All children must travel in rear seats (ie any seats behind the driver) if a child car seat or an adult seat belt isn't fitted.



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WHEN A CHILD CAN TRAVEL WITHOUT A CAR SEAT

A child can travel without a child car seat in some circumstances.

TAXIS AND MINICABS (private hire vehicles)

In a licensed taxi or minicab:

- children under 3 years of age can travel without a child's car seat or seat belt, but only on the back seat
- children aged 3 years or older can travel without a child's car seat if they wear an adult seat belt

UNEXPECTED JOURNEYS

If the correct child seat isn't available, a child over 3 years of age can use an adult seat belt if the journey is all of the following:

- unexpected
- necessary
- over a short distance

You can't take children under 3 in a vehicle without a seat belt or the correct child car seat (except a taxi or minicab).

NO ROOM FOR A THIRD CHILD SEAT

Children under 3 must be in a child car seat. If there's no room for a third child seat in the back of the vehicle, the child must travel in the front seat with the correct child seat.

Children over 3 years can sit in the back using an adult belt.

VEHICLES WITHOUT SEAT BELTS

Children under 3 must be in a child car seat. **If there's no seat belt, they can't travel.**

A child over 3 can travel in a back seat without a car seat and without a seat belt if the vehicle doesn't have one.

And remember **you must wear a seatbelt at all times on a journey**, unless you reversing or have an exemption certificate and have notified your insurance company.

Penalties for non-compliance of seat belts and car booster seats

For non-compliance a fixed penalty notice will be issued (as at August 2013) for **£100.00**

Information supplied by Department of Transport. Visit the full website for further information of the child regulations for car travel www.gov.uk

Community Safety Department Police Headquarters March 2014.

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