8 tips for a safely buckled up trip:

1. **Be a role model for your child.** Buckle up every single time – even on short trips.
2. **Follow directions.** Always read your child safety seat instructions and vehicle owner’s manual when installing a child safety seat.
3. **Make sure it fits.** Use child safety seats or booster seats until the adult lap and shoulder belt fit your child correctly.
4. **Keep ’em in their place.** Always put children under 13 years of age in the back seat.
5. **One at a time.** Never place more than one child in the same safety belt.
6. **Know when to let go.** Never hold a child on your lap in a vehicle. In a crash, your child can be ripped from your arms and crushed.
7. **Lay down the law.** Never let a child push a shoulder belt under their arm or behind their back.
8. **Keep ’em inside.** Never allow a child under 18 to ride in the open bed of a pickup truck. It’s illegal in Oregon — and it’s often deadly.

**Need more help? Call the experts.**

A variety of nonprofit organizations and public agencies offer free child safety seat checks to the public across Oregon, supported by grants from ODOT Transportation Safety Division. Nationally certified technicians at these organizations and agencies can help you choose the right kind of child safety seat and use it properly. The checkups are available at scheduled times or by appointment, and will vary by location.

Some organizations or agencies may also provide discounted child car seats and boosters to qualifying families in need of financial assistance. For more information on Oregon law, car seat and booster installation, or to locate a checkup event, please visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/Pages/safetybelts.aspx.
The A-B-C of child safety seats:
Always fasten the seat as tightly as possible into your vehicle.
Buckle your child snugly into the seat’s harness.
Correctly position the harness retainer clip at your child’s armpit level.

Kids take a back seat for safety.
Children should ride in the rear seat of a vehicle until they are at least 13 years of age.

Kids are too small for adult safety belts.
Safety belts are designed to fit adults—not children. In a crash, a child can slip out of an adult safety belt and can even be injured by a poorly fitting safety belt. Kids who aren’t buckled up at all face even greater danger. Securing your child in the right type of safety seat or booster seat dramatically reduces their risk of injury in a crash.

One size doesn’t fit all.
The best seat for your child is one that fits your child’s size, is correctly installed and is used properly—every time you drive. That’s why Oregon has laws designed to protect your child in a crash.

Which seat is right for my child?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REAR-FACING INFANT SEAT</th>
<th>FORWARD-FACING CHILD SAFETY SEAT</th>
<th>BOOSTER SEAT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oregon Law:</strong> Children must ride in rear-facing safety seats until they are at least 2 years old.</td>
<td><strong>Oregon Law:</strong> Children older than 2 years must continue to use a safety seat until they weigh at least 40 pounds.</td>
<td><strong>Oregon Law:</strong> Children who weigh more than 40 pounds must use a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4’9” tall, and the adult lap and shoulder belt fits them correctly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>■ Never put a rear-facing infant seat in the front seat of a vehicle with dashboard mounted air bags.</td>
<td>■ Make sure the forward-facing child safety seat is placed in an upright position and in the back seat every time your child rides.</td>
<td>■ A booster seat raises a child so that adult lap and shoulder belts fit them correctly. Never use a booster seat with just a lap belt.</td>
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<td>■ Secure your baby into the seat snugly, at proper recline, positioning the harness retainer across the chest at armpit level.</td>
<td>■ Position the harness retainer clip at your child’s armpit level.</td>
<td>■ When the rear seats of a vehicle have lap belts only, Oregon law exempts children from the requirement to use a booster seat but requires that they be secured by the lap belt.</td>
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