Keeping Your Child Safe in the Car

Every Young Child Must Ride in a Car Seat
- It is the law in California
- Your child must ride in a child safety seat until s/he is six years of age, OR weighs 60 pounds or more

Choose the Right Car Seat for Your Child
- Choose a car seat that fits your child: pick one that is right for your child’s age and size
- Choose a car seat that fits your car: not all car seats work in every car. Try the car seat in your car before you buy it.
- Follow the directions and practice putting the car seat in the car
- Do not buy a used car seat: it may have missing parts or been recalled or it may have been in an accident
- If you cannot buy a car seat, call your local health department for assistance.

Infant Seats
- These seats are for babies who weigh up to 22 pounds
- These car seats must face the back of the car
- When your baby sits in the seat, your baby should face the back of the car
- The car seat should not be straight up, but tilted at a 45-degree angle

Convertible Seat
- These seats are used for both babies and older children up to 40 pounds and 4 years old.
- Babies may need extra padding in the car seat that helps it fit right
- The car seat should face backward and tilt for babies under 1 year or under 20 pounds
- Children over 1 year old and over 20 pounds can face forward
- When the car seat faces forward, it is used upright

Toddler/Child Seat
- A child seat is used after a child is 1 year old and 20 pounds or more; it is not used for babies
- The seat faces forward only
- The child uses this seat until they are 4 years old or up to 40 pounds

Booster Seats
- When your child is too big for a regular child car seat your child will need a booster seat. Children can be badly hurt in a car accident if they use an adult safety belt without a booster seat.
- Use a booster seat when your child is 6 years old or over 60 pounds
- Boosters keep the lap belt low on the hit and it keeps the shoulder belt centered on the shoulder and chest which protects your child
- Most children need a booster seat until at least age 8 for the best protection