Alberta Occupant Restraint Program

Protecting Children from Birth to Ten
Session Outline

- Review Alberta law
- View Video – Car Seats: How to Protect Your Child from Birth to Ten
- Outline key points for each age and seat type
- Questions & answers
- Withdrawal of tickets
Program Rationale

• Enforcement with education is known to improve correct safety seat use
• Participation in the session is optional
• Ticketed drivers may choose to pay fine instead of attending
It is Possible for Children to Survive a Serious Collision...

if they are properly secured in child safety seats or booster seats
Alberta Law

• All drivers and passengers must use the appropriate seat belt or child safety seat correctly
• Drivers are responsible to ensure passengers under the age of 16 are properly secured in seat belts or child safety seats
Alberta Law

- If a child weighs less than 18 kg (40 lb) or is under 6 years of age, the driver must make sure that:
  1. The appropriate restraint is used for the child
  2. The child safety seat is correctly installed
  3. The child is properly secured
Alberta Law

• If a child weighs more than 18 kg (40 lb) and is under 16 years of age, the driver must ensure:
  • The complete seat belt is worn by the child
  • The seat belt is properly adjusted
  • The seat belt is securely fastened
For All Child Safety Seats & Booster Seats

• Read the child safety seat or booster seat manufacturer’s instructions
• Read your vehicle’s owner manual for correct installation in the vehicle
Video

Car Seats: How to Protect Your Child from Birth to Ten
Rear-facing
Quick Checklist

• Is my baby in the right seat?
• Is my baby facing the correct direction?
• Is my seat installed properly?
• Is the angle adjusted properly?
• Is my baby buckled in the seat properly?
• Is my baby’s head at least an inch below the top of the seat?
Forward-facing
Quick Checklist

• Is my child in the correct seat?
• Is my seat installed properly?
• Did I hook the top tether into the tether anchor?
• Is my child buckled in the seat properly?

It’s time for a larger car seat or a booster when the child reaches the upper weight limit and/or her shoulders are above the upper harness slots.
Booster Quick Checklist

• Is my child in the back seat with a lap-shoulder belt?
• Does the lap-shoulder belt fit properly after installation?
  • Shoulder belt flat and snug against chest and collarbone
  • Lap belt touching upper thighs
• Is my child’s head supported?
A Child is Ready for a Seat Belt When He Can:

• Sit with the lap portion of the belt riding low across the hips
• Sit with the shoulder portion of the belt crossing between neck and arm
• Sit with knees bent comfortably at edge of vehicle seat
• Sit with his back flat against back of vehicle seat without slouching, AND
• Remain in this position for entire trip
Additional Information

• Child safety seats and booster seats must meet Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (CMVSS)
• A seat should be replaced if it has been in a crash
• Second hand seats are not recommended
For More Information

- Contact Car Seat Manufacturer or Vehicle Dealer
- Visit these websites:
  - Transport Canada
    www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety (click on child safety)
  - Alberta Occupant Restraint Program
    www.health-in-action.org/aorp
  - Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation
    www.saferoads.com
  - Calgary Injury Prevention Coalition
    www.boosterseats.ca