

Dial-A-Ride Car Seat Protocol

The Child Passenger Protection Act requires that all children under age 8 be properly secured in an appropriate child safety restraint system.

The Child Passenger Protection Act is amended to include the requirement for children under age 2 years to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds or are 40 or more inches tall.

Always read and follow the safety seat instruction manual for the installation of your child safety seat and you must follow the age, height and weight requirements.

Newborn-2 years

Illinois law requires children under age 2 to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system unless they weigh more than 40 pounds or are more than 40 inches tall. Children must remain rear-facing until age 2. Children riding rear-facing may use a rear-facing only car seat or a convertible car seat installed rear-facing. The child's head may need to be 1 inch or more below the top of the safety seat when rear-facing. Harness straps must be snug on the child; the harness clip should be at armpit level.

Ages 2-4

Forward-facing seat with a 5-point harness system. Use the internal harness system until the upper height or weight limit is reached. Use harness straps/slots at or above shoulder level when forward-facing. Harness straps must be snug on the child; the harness clip should be at armpit level. The top of the child's ears should not be above the top of the car seat when forward-facing.

Ages 4-8

Children should be secured in a forward-facing safety seat with an internal harness system until they reach 40 inches in height or 40 pounds. When a child outgrows the forward-facing seat, he or she may transition to a regular seat on the bus and use the lap safety belt. Booster seats may not be used on Dial-A-Ride buses as our buses are not equipped with shoulder belts. In this instance, children would not be permitted to sit in the front seat of any Dial-A-Ride vehicle.