

# Car seats for babies

## Information for parents

### **Legal requirements for car seats and child restraints**

In New Zealand, all children under the age of 5 years must be properly restrained with an approved child restraint when travelling in cars or vans. The use of an adult seatbelt on its own is not acceptable. The driver is responsible for making sure children are safely restrained in their vehicle.

The law also requires drivers to make sure that children between the ages of 5-7 years are safely restrained if there is a car seat, other child restraint or seatbelt in the vehicle. If no restraint is available, children must be seated in the rear of the car. Drivers are also responsible for making sure that children between the ages of 8-14 years use seatbelts when available.

### **Approved child restraints**

Child restraints that have been approved for use in New Zealand will have passed one of the following standards:

New Zealand Standard 5411

Australian Standard 1754

United States Standard FMVSS213

European Standard ECE44

NZ and Australian approved infant and child seats have a tether strap which secures the top of the seat to the vehicle. This strap must be used for the seat to be safe for use.

## **Safe Travelling for children**

The back of a vehicle is safe for children than the front. Infants in car seats should be in the back seat facing the rear of the vehicle.

Passenger side airbags are potentially dangerous to infants and children. It is recommended those children 12 years and under should not ride in the front seat if the vehicle is equipped with an airbag.

Taxis are not required to provide fitted child restraints. However, given reasonable notice, most Taxi companies will provide a car with suitable child restraint.

## **Types of car seats and child restraints**

The most appropriate seat or restraint to use depends on the age and size of the infant or child.

### **Birth to 6 months**

Use a car seat designed to face the rear of the vehicle for babies unable to sit up.

### **6 months to 4 years**

Use a child car seat with secure buckles and straps that the child is not able to release. (A booster seat used with an adult seatbelt may be more appropriate for bigger children under 4.)

### **4-8 years**

Use a child harness or a booster seat in conjunction with an adult seatbelt. (All child restraints must be attached to an adult seatbelt to be secured and safe.)

## **Pre-school and school children**

A child should stay in regular car seat until they outgrow it. Most children will fit a car seat until they are about 4 years of age. They are then ready for a booster seat, which is used in conjunction with a car seat belt. Car safety belts are designed for adults, so the booster seat allows the seat belt to fit children up to the age of 10.

## **Car Seat Rental Services**

Car seats can be hired from Plunket, other community-based organisations and some private companies. Costs and availability vary so it is a good idea to enquire and book a car seat well in advance of when you will need it. In some cases of financial hardship, the Income Support Service may be able to provide assistance with obtaining a car seat.

## **Contact details for hiring car seats and second hand baby equipment:**

**Ngati Whatua O Orakei Health Clinic car seat rental service.**

Phone 09-521 2884

### **Baby Factory Branches**

New Lynn Phone 09-827 1310

Henderson Phone 09-838 6500

Manukau Phone 09-263 4850

Panmure Phone 09-527 2665

Newmarket Phone 09-522 0396

**Baby On The Move** rent or buy baby car seats and other nursery products

(cots, highchairs, buggies, backpacks, etc.) Discounted rental for multiple births.

Phone 0800-222 966

Phone Glenda Hoffman at home on 09-376 3348

Car seat hire for **Pacific Islands families** phone Betty on 09-837 1619

### **Plunket Car Seat Hire**

**Auckland Central District & Suburbs.**

**Phone 09-623 8357 518 Dominion Road**

For the Following areas:

City/Westmere/Grey Lynn/Ponsonby/

Herne Bay/Newton/Freeman's Bay/

Pt Chevalier/Parnell/Newmarket/

Remuera/Greenlane/Mt Wellington/

Otahuhu/Panmure/Ellerslie/Glen Innes/

St Johns/St Heliers/Meadowbank/

Kohimarama/Mission Bay/Orakei/

Glendowie/Avondale/Mt Roskill/

New Windsor/Lynfield/Blockhouse Bay/

Balmoral/Mt Albert/Mt Eden/Epsom/

Oranga/Cornwall Park/Royal Oak/

Rosebank/Onehunga/Epsom/Eden North/

Owairaka/Hillsborough/One Tree Hill/

Three Kings/Kingsland/Sandringham/

Waiheke Island

## **West Auckland/Waitakere City.**

**Phone 09-837 1871**

Waitakere Hospital Plunket Car Seat Office

For the Following areas:

Massey/Te Atatu/Ranui/Waitakere/Henderson/

Swanson/Glen Eden/Glendene/Edmonton/

Green Bay/Waikumete/New Lynn/Titirangi

## **South Auckland Area**

Howick/Pakuranga

Phone 09-535 1107

Mangere

Phone 09-636 8296

Manurewa

Phone 09-266 4690

Papakura

Phone 09-296 1429

Papatoetoe

Phone 09-278 3634

Franklin/Pukekohe

Phone 09-238 9458

## **West Auckland/Rodney.**

**Phone 09-412 8692**

For the Following areas:

Helensville/Huapai/Kumeu/

This leaflet provides a guide only. If you have concerns or want more information about your baby, ask the doctor or nurse providing your baby's care.