

Safer Journeys with Kids this Labour Weekend

Putting kids in Car Seats is a Labour of Love



Did you know that in the event of a car crash, correctly using and installing child car seats can reduce the risk of death by 70% for infants, 54% for toddlers, and reduce the need for hospitalisation by up to 69% for children 4 years and younger?

And did you know that Booster Seats, or car seats for school-age children, can reduce the risk of serious and life-threatening injuries by up to 52%?

Before travelling with kids this Labour Weekend, make sure that they are safely restrained in the right child car seat.

“Child passenger injuries are a leading cause of death and hospitalisation for children in New Zealand, with 16 child deaths a year and about a classroom-full (23) of kids admitted to hospital every month,” said Ann Weaver, Director of Safekids New Zealand.

According to Safekids, seatbelts are designed to fit adults, not kids. By putting kids in seatbelts which do not fit them properly, they risk severe head, spine and abdominal injuries in a crash.

“By using the right child car seat or booster seat correctly, you are providing the best protection your love ones deserve when travelling this Labour Weekend,” Ann said.

Safekids travel tips and reminders for parents and caregivers:

- ✓ Use the right child car restraint: Rear-facing for babies and toddlers; Forward-facing for pre-schoolers.
- ✓ School-aged children are safer in a booster seat until they're 148cm tall.
- ✓ Car seats and booster seats makes kids sit higher, allowing them to enjoy the view outside and provides a more comfortable ride.
- ✓ Some community car rental schemes offer child car seats for as low as 80 cents a week. Visit Plunket or a community car seat rental scheme for information in hiring or buying child car seats or booster seats.
- ✓ Kids under 12 years old are safer in the back seat, away from front airbags.



Non compliance and incorrect use and installation of child restraints is a major issue in New Zealand.



For tips and information in keeping kids safe on the road, at home and at play, visit www.safekids.org.nz.
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About Safekids New Zealand

Safekids New Zealand is the injury prevention service of Starship Children's Health and a member of SAFE KIDS Worldwide. Our mission is to reduce the incidence and severity of unintentional injuries to New Zealand's children aged 0 - 14 years.

For more information, a high resolution image, contact Anthony Rola at anthonyr@adhb.govt.nz, or visit www.safekids.org.nz or call 09 631 0717.