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A trip to the Zoo with Grandma and Friends



# Traveling Safely with the Grandkids

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zoo stop



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Safety Belt Instructional Series

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#### Dear Grandparents:

Nine out of 10 grandparents will care for their grandchildren sometime this year.

As grandparents, you are deeply committed to your grandchildren's future. You do your best to **share your wisdom**, show your love and protect your little ones from harm. Part of that protection is taking action to ensure they don't fall victim to this country's number one cause of childhood injuries and death: unintentional injury.

- Bad News: Each year, nearly 6,300 children ages 14 and under are killed and 120,000 are permanently disabled from "accidents."
- Good News: There's really no such thing as an accident – unintentional injuries are preventable!

You can help **influence your grandchildren** to have safe futures by including child safety practices in the time that you spend with them.

Following the guidelines in this **safety scrapbook** is a good first step.



## Motor Vehicle Safety

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66 My kids grew up without high-tech car seats, so

## WHY DO MY GRANDKIDS NEED THEM?"

he fact is, car seats are proven lifesavers in today's aggressive driving environment. Whether you're driving on the interstate or just down the street, take the time to **save a life** and never let a child ride unrestrained.

## Before Every Trip

- I will always buckle up my grandchildren in the back seat vehicle safety devices like air bags can be dangerous to children.
- I will use the right seat all children must graduate from infant seats, to convertible seats to booster seats before they are ready for a safety belt.
- I will install, use and follow car seat instructions correctly or ask for help.
- I will buckle my own safety belts children copy what adults do.

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hanging out at the zoo



## Frequently Asked Questions

**About Seat Belts:** 

- Q What is Maryland's seat belt law?
- A Since 1997, the Maryland law has allowed police officers to ticket drivers and/or adult front seat passengers for not wearing a seat belt even if no other violation is observed.
- Q What are the Maryland Child Passenger Safety Law requirements?
- A The law requires that all children younger than 16 must be buckled up and may not ride in the bed of a pickup truck. Children younger than six years old (regardless of their weight) or who weighs 40 pounds or less (regardless of their age), must be secured in a child safety seat.
- Q Are there any points assessed for not wearing a seat belt in Maryland?
- A There are no points assessed for non-compliance with Maryland's seat belt law, however there is a \$25 fine for each unbuckled adult and a \$48 fine for unbuckled children (under the age of 15).

#### Please remember...

- Everyone in the vehicle **must be buckled** up at all times until the vehicle is safely parked.
- Never hold a child in your lap while riding or driving.
- Never put a child in the rear-facing position in the front seat where there is an air bag; children younger than age 13 are safest in the back seat.
- Remember: Infants face backwards. Toddlers older than 1 year old (who have outgrown their rear-facing convertible seat) face forward.
- Always follow the child safety **seat and vehicle instructions** for correct installation and use the car's seat belt or LATCH to tightly buckle the child safety seat to the car.
- Studies show that when children are correctly buckled up, they are better behaved, feel more secure, fall asleep sooner, and are less likely to be injured.

#### My seat belt doesn't fit me properly. Do I have to wear it over my shoulder?

A Yes, one faces a risk of serious injury or death by not using the seat belt properly – in this case, the lap belt should be worn 2 to 4 inches below the waist, against the hips and upper thighs and never high over the ribs and stomach. The shoulder belt should **never** be worn under the arm or behind the back. Plus, by always wearing your seat belt you are being a good role model for your grandchild.

#### Q Do I still need to wear my seat belt since I have air bags?

A Yes, The combined use of safety belts and air bags provides the best protection in a crash. Safety belts keep you correctly held in place to ensure that you receive the additional protection of the air bag in a head-on or side collision.







This document is available in alternative formats upon request from qualified individuals with disabilities.

For more information contact:

#### **Maryland Kids in Safety Seats (KISS)**

Call us at 410·767·6016 or Toll Free 1·800·370·SEAT or on the web at www.mdkiss.org

The Maryland Committee For Safety Belt Use, Inc.

Call us at 410.787.5893

#### **Maryland Highway Safety Office**

Call us at 410·787·4077 or Toll Free 1·888·963·0307

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