REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
Children should always ride rear-facing to the upper height or weight limit of their car seats and always in the back seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats. Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and all-in-one car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing children to remain rear-facing for a longer period of time.

A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for young child to use. It has a harness and, during a crash, cradles and moves with the child to reduce the stress to the child’s fragile neck and spinal cord.

FOWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
Keep children rear-facing as long as possible. Children should remain in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat’s manufacturer. Once children outgrow the rear-facing car seat, they are ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness in the back seat.

A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limits the child’s forward movement during a crash.

BOOSTER SEAT
Keep children in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat’s manufacturer. Once the child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it’s time to travel in a booster seat but still in the vehicle’s back seat.

A booster seat positions the seatbelt so it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child’s body.

*Kansas law requires use of a car seat or booster seat until your child is at least 8 years old or 4’9” tall or weighs 80 pounds.*

SEATBELT
Keep children in a booster seat until they are big enough to fit in a seatbelt properly. For a seatbelt to fit properly, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face.

Remember, children should ride in the back seat until age 13 because it’s safest. Airbags in the front seat are not safe for children.