# **Child Safety**



Children depend on adults to protect them. To help make sure we do, eveiy state and Canadian province has laws requiring infants and young children to be properly restrained whenever they ride in a car.

#### **A WARNING**

An infant or child who is not properly restrained can be killed or seriously injured in a crash.

Be sure any child too small for seat belts is properly secured in a child restraint.

#### Where Should Children Sit?

According to accident statistics, children of all sizes and ages are safer when they are properly restrained in the rear seat rather than the front seat.

We recommend that, whenever possible, you secure your child's infant or toddler seat in the center position of the rear seat with the lap helf

We strongly recommend that you do not put an infant seat in the front passenger's seat. If the airbag inflates, it can hit the infant seat with great force. The infant seat can be dislodged or struck with enough force to cause very serious injury to the infant.

If a toddler seat is used in the front passenger's seat, the vehicle seat should be moved as far back as possible. If the passenger's bag inflates, it could seriously hurt a toddler who is not in the proper position or properly restrained.

We also recommend that any child who is too large to use an infant or toddler seat ride in one of the outside positions of the rear seat. The child should then wear the lap/ shoulder belt properly for protection.

### **Important Safety Reminders**

Never hold a baby or child on your lap when riding in a car. If you are wearing your seat belt, the violent forces created during a crash will tear the child from your arms. The child could be seriously hurt or killed.

If you are holding a child and not wearing a seat belt in a crash, you could crush the child against the car's interior.

Never put your seat belt over yourself and a child. During a crash, the belt could press deep into the child, causing serious internal injuries.

Two children should never use the same seat belt. If they do, they could be very seriously injured in a crash.

If you are driving with small children in the car, you should use the childproof door locks to prevent them from opening the rear doors (see page 54).

For their safety, do not leave children alone in your car without adult supervision.

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### General Guidelines for Restraining Children Under 18 kg (40 lbs)

Use an approved child seat. The seat must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 (FMVSS-213) or Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Look for the manufacturer's statement of compliance on the box and seat.

Use a seat of the right size. Make sure the seat fits your child. Check the seat manufacturer's instructions and labels for height and weight limits.

Secure the child seal to the car. All approved child seats are designed to be secured to the car seat by the lap belt or the lap belt portion of a lap/shoulder belt. A child whose seat is not properly secured to the car can be endangered in a crash.

To properly route a seat belt through a child seat, follow the seat maker's instructions. If you use a lap/ shoulder belt, be sure you install a locking clip on the belt (see page 24).

Secure the child in the child seat. Make sure the infant or child is firmly secured to the child seat. Use the straps provided, and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.

### Restraining an Infant Who Weighs Less Than 9 kg (20 lbs)



An infant up to about 9 kg (20 lbs) must be restrained in an infant seat or a convertible seat designed for a baby. Because infants must ride in a reclining position, be sure the infant seat always faces the REAR of the car as shown.

We recommend that, whenever possible, you put the infant seat in the center position of the rear seat and secure it to the car with the lap belt.

If you decide to put an infant seat in any other seating position, you must use a locking clip on the car's lap/shoulder belt (see page 24).

We strongly recommend that you do not put an infant seat in the front passenger's seat. If the airbag inflates, it can hit the infant seat with great force. The infant seat can be dislodged or struck with enough force to cause very serious injury to the infant.

# Restraining a Child Who Weighs Between 9 and 18 kg (20 and 40 lbs)



Toddler seats are designed for children who weigh between 9 and 18 kg (20 and 40 lbs).

The preferred place to put a toddler seat is in the center position of the rear seat. Use the car's lap belt to secure the seat to the car.

If you decide to put a toddler seat in any other seating position, you must use a locking clip on the car's lap/shoulder belt (see page 24).

If you are using a toddler seat in the front passenger's seat, move the passenger's seat as far back as possible before installing the child seat. If the passenger's bag inflates, it could seriously hurt a toddler who is not in the proper position or properly restrained.