

## 4 years upwards...

Once your child has reached the maximum weight for their harness or shield in their car seat, they will need to use the adult three-point seat belt (Not a lap belt). Only allow your child to use the adult belt with their seat when you are confident that they won't undo it during a journey.

All children still need upper body protection in any type of collision, so use a restraint that has a full back and head support for as long as possible.

The UK law states that a child must be 135cm tall or 12 years of age (whichever they reach first) before they no longer need any type of child seat. However, all these types of restraints are designed to accommodate a child who is 150cm tall so you can continue to use it until then.

Keep checking that they have fastened themselves in correctly and that they don't undo their belts until the vehicle engine is switched off.

## New changes for Booster Cushions...

In 2017, the safety regulations changed for new designs of booster seats.

This means that if you are buying a new seat for a child under 22kg and shorter than 125cm it **must** be a high backed booster seat. If your child is over 22kg and 125cm they will be able to use booster cushions though it is far safer to use a high backed booster seat.

The change doesn't affect existing seats or cushions and they are still legal to use.

If you already own a booster cushion which states it conforms to ECE R44/04 Group 2 – 15kg minimum weight, then it will still be legal for you to use with a child who is just 15kg.



**ALWAYS!**  
remember to make sure that you, your children and all your passengers are properly restrained every time you go out in the car.

## What the Law says

	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Who is Responsible?
Driver	Seat belt must be worn if fitted		Driver
Child under 3 years of age	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If one is not available in a taxi, may travel unrestrained	Driver
Child from 3rd birthday up to 135 cms in height (or 12th birthday whichever they reach first)	Correct child restraint must be used	Correct child restraint must be used where seat belts fitted. Must use adult belt in a rear seat if correct child restraint not available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ in a taxi</li> <li>■ for a short distance in an unexpected necessity</li> </ul>	Driver
Child 12 or 13, over 135 cms in height	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Driver
Adult passengers aged 14 and over	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Seat belt must be worn if fitted	Passenger

  
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For more information about child restraints visit:  
[www.childseatsafety.co.uk](http://www.childseatsafety.co.uk)  
 twitter @carseatladies  
 facebook - Child Seat Safety Ltd

## In Safe Hands



Features new safety regulations from 2017

A PARENTS GUIDE TO SAFER CAR TRAVEL

# Keep baby safe

Every year in Britain around 350 children are killed or seriously injured as car passengers. If you allow your child to travel unrestrained you are breaking the law and putting their life at risk.

When you buy a car seat make sure it is labelled either ECE R44-04 or i-Size (see the labels below).

Don't move your child into the next seat too soon, move them when they are at the maximum weight for the existing seat.

This leaflet serves as a simple guide to different types of restraints available. There are many to choose from, some of which can be adapted for different ages. It is worth shopping around to get advice from retailers who stock a good selection.

Universal means the seat can be used in the majority of cars.

This details the approved weight range of the child.

RÖMER BABY-SAFE  
ECE R44/04  
Universal  
0 - 13 kg Y  
E1  
04301146  
BRITAX RÖMER  
Blaubauer Str. 71  
D - 89077 Ulm

It must state 44/04 - to be in line with current legislation.

'Y' shows that the seat has a 5 point harness system.



**i-Size** is a new standard (ECE Reg' 129) that was introduced in 2014 and we are starting to see these new restraints on the market. This new standard is slowly being phased in so don't panic if you have a restraint that conforms to the existing regulations (ECER44.03 or R44.04.) You can still use it for some time yet.

However, if you are expecting a new baby or you need to move your baby up to the next stage seat, consider purchasing an i-Size restraint. You'll need to make sure that your car is compatible with any seat (including i-Size ones) so look in the vehicle manual and ask the retailer to check the restraint for you.

**DO NOT allow the belt to be slack, loose or twisted. It must be snug and comfortable to be effective.**



## Before birth...

It's all too easy to neglect wearing a seat belt when you're pregnant, especially if it's uncomfortable. But if you don't wear one you are putting both yourself and your unborn baby at risk.

If you wear your belt correctly it will be comfortable and will also keep you and your baby safe.

■ Never carry a baby in your arms.

■ The force of a collision can make a baby weigh up to 30 times his or her real weight.

■ In the event of a crash, a baby could be thrown out of your arms and possibly through the windscreen.



## Newborn...

It is vital that you have the correct restraint for your baby on every journey including their first trip home.

Babies under 15 months of age need the best support they can get for their heads, necks and spines and this is provided by a rearward facing or a lie flat restraint. It's vital that they have the best protection possible in a collision so keep them in this seat for as long as possible. Most restraints will last up to 13kgs but check the label on the seat to be sure.

Never use a forward facing restraint before your baby weighs 9kgs.

Wherever possible place your baby in the rear seats of the car and never place it in the front passenger seat where an airbag is active.

## Toddler car seats...

There is a wide variety of seats you may consider when your child finally outgrows their infant carrier including extended rear facing seats, forward facing seats or rearward and forward facing combination seats.

These types of seats can be fitted with harnesses or safety shields up to 18kgs or just harnesses up to 25kgs and some even have the option of being altered once the child is big enough to accommodate the adult lap and diagonal seat belt instead of a harness.

Always make sure the harness fits the child correctly and is tight around them. It will need adjusting as your child grows so keep checking the harness position on their shoulders. Remove any thick coats and, if necessary, use them as a blanket over the harness and child.

