

# PARENT NOTES



## DID YOU KNOW?

### The Seat Belt Law requires:

- All vehicle occupants be *properly restrained* in all seats:
  - ✓ Infants must remain in a rear facing car seat until they are 1 year of age or weigh 20 pounds.
  - ✓ Children 20-40 pounds or ages 1-4 must ride in a forward facing child safety seat with a harness.
  - ✓ Kids 4-6 years old or weighing up to 60 pounds must be in a booster seat in vehicles equipped with a lap and shoulder belt. Vehicles equipped with lap-only seat belts are exempt from the requirement to use a booster seat.
  - ✓ Children 6 years old or weighing more than 60 pounds shall be restrained in either a booster seat or a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt.
- The driver is responsible for securing all children under the age of 16. The driver can

be given a ticket even if the seat belt does not properly fit the child (*for example: the shoulder belt crosses the face or neck; the shoulder belt is under the arm; the shoulder belt is behind the back; or the lap belt is up on the tummy*).

- When the vehicle has an active front air bag, the child should ride in the back seat.
- Passengers 16 years of age and older are responsible for themselves. They will receive their own ticket if they are not buckled.

**BUCKLING ONE SEAT BELT AROUND TWO PEOPLE OR PLACING THE SEAT BELT UNDER THE ARM OR BEHIND THE BACK IS DANGEROUS, CAN CAUSE DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY, AND IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW.**

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Washington's Child Restraint Law will change on **JUNE 1, 2007** to require:

- The restraint system must be used according to the car seat AND vehicle manufacturer's instructions.
- Children up to their 8th birthday, unless already 4'9" tall (57 inches) be transported in a child restraint system. (*For example a child car seat, booster seat, vest or other restraint that is federally approved for use in the car.*)
- Children 8 years of age or at least 4'9" tall who wear a lap/shoulder seat belt **MUST** wear it correctly. (*NOT under the arm or behind the back.*)
- ALL Children not yet 13 years old are transported in the back seat.

To see charts on how to choose the correct restraint system, recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Department of Transportation, car seat recalls or other information go to

<http://www.800buckleup.org>