

Carpooling - A Seat Belt for Everyone

Carpooling helps parents manage their children's busy schedules. It saves time and gas and gives parents an opportunity to get to know their children's friends.

Getting Ready for the Carpool

- ✓ Select parents who you consider to be reliable to participate in the pool. Some issues to think about: vehicle maintenance, criminal background, insurance, discipline and timeliness.
- ✓ Review safety rules with children you transport.
- ✓ Have emergency contacts for all children in the car pool.
- ✓ Plan ahead – never transport more passengers than you have seat belts for.



During the Ride

- ✓ All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat. If a child must be transported in the front seat, check to be sure the air bag is disabled.
- ✓ Children should ride in restraints (car seat, booster or seat belt) that are appropriate for their age, weight and height.
- ✓ North Dakota law requires children under age 7 to use a car seat or booster, but many pediatricians and safety experts recommend booster seat use for children ages 8 to 12 or up to 4'9" tall.
- ✓ Consider having extra child-appealing booster seats on hand to transport children when the seat belt does not fit correctly.
- ✓ Sharing is good, except when it comes to seat belts. There should be a seat belt for everyone. No double-buckling.
- ✓ Lap and shoulder belts are safer than lap-only seat belts.
- ✓ Seat belts should be worn correctly, with the lap belt low on the hips and the shoulder belt across the chest. The shoulder belt should never be placed behind the back or under the arm.
- ✓ Never allow a child to ride in the cargo area of a van, SUV or pickup.
- ✓ Store heavy or sharp objects in the trunk or cargo area, so they won't fly around in a crash or sudden stop.

Safety Outside the Vehicle

- ✓ Plan pick-up and drop-off locations carefully. Avoid backing up where young children are present.
- ✓ Before leaving, walk around the vehicle to check for children.
- ✓ Make sure children can be seen as they approach the vehicle.
- ✓ Have children exit on the curb side and wait until they are inside the building or safely supervised before leaving.
- ✓ Never leave children alone in a vehicle.



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