

# Car Seat Help is Here!

The Summit County Safe KIDS Coalition has established a Child Safety Seat inspection Station located at the downtown AAA office located at 111 W. Center St. Akron, OH. The inspection station provides car seat installation by appointment as well as walk-ins. For appointments call Jennifer Klingenberg at 330-762-0631. The station also provides for low-income families to receive a car seat free through a voucher program. If the family qualifies for the WIC program they qualify for this program. For families who may qualify for this please contact Jennifer at AAA or Mark A. Harper Sr. at the Akron Fire Department Public Education Office, 330-375-2197 or e-mail Mark at Mharper@ci.akron.oh.us.

## **REMEMBER**

**Infants from birth to age one, and at least 20 pounds should ride in the back seat in a rear facing safety seat.**

Harness Straps should be at or below the infant's shoulders.

Harness straps should fit snugly. The straps should lie in a relatively straight line without sagging.

The harness chest clip should be placed at the infant's armpit level.

This keeps the harness straps positioned properly and prevents ejection from the seat.

Infants weighing 20 pounds or more before one year should ride in a safety seat rated for heavier infants (some convertible seats are rated up to 30-35 pounds rear facing).

**Children over one year and at least 20 pounds may ride forward facing in the back seat. Children should ride in a safety seat with full harness until they weigh about 40 pounds.**

Harness straps should be at or above child's shoulders.

Harness straps should be treaded through the top slots, in most cases.

Harness should be snug. Straps should lie in a relatively straight line without sagging.

Harness chest clip should be at the child's armpit level, which helps keep the harness straps positioned properly on the child's shoulders to help prevent ejection from the seat.

**Children between 40-80 pounds should ride in the back seat in a belt positioning booster seat, which uses the lap and shoulder belt. Booster seats should be used until the adult lap and shoulder belt fit children properly.**

Belt positioning boosters can only be used with both the lap and shoulder belt across the child. The shoulder belt should be snug against the child's chest, resting across the collarbone. The lap belt should lay low across the child's upper thigh area.

Boosters should be used as "in between" safety devices for children over 40 pounds who have outgrown a forward-facing child seat.

Booster seats should be used until the child can sit with his/her back against the vehicle seat back cushion, knees bent over the seat cushion edge, and feet on the floor, approximately 4' 9" tall.

With Your Safety In Mind

Mark A. Harper Sr.