

New to Oregon?

Information and resources about child safety and developmental support in Oregon.

Questions? Contact Diana Platas, FAIS Lower School Counselor at dplatas@faispdx.org or 503-292-7776 x328

Questions about Development?



Oregon Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is an online questionnaire that checks your child's general development, while the Oregon ASQ-SE screens their Social-Emotional development. Both questionnaires are free and the caregiver receives results via a detailed email which includes suggested activities and recommendations for specific supports, if indicated. <http://asqoregon.com/>

Children in Oregon aged birth-5 who have developmental delays, including speech difficulties, may be eligible for free early intervention supports. The FAIS school counselor can assist you in finding out more or you can look online for *Multnomah Early Childhood Program* for Multnomah County residents or *NW Regional Educational Service District* (ESD) for Washington County.

Child Safety

Oregon law designates that people who work in specific professions are “mandatory reporters.” Some of the professions included as mandatory reporters are:

- All school employees
- Physicians, nurses, dentists
- Licensed counselors & psychologists
- Emergency responders
- Athletic coaches
- Speech, occupational & physical therapists



Mandatory reporters are required to report to the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) if they have a reasonable cause for concern about the health or welfare of a child. In Oregon the following situations are examples of reasonable cause for concern:

- A physical injury which leaves a bruise or a mark that does not match the explanation given of the injury. An example is a mark resulting from a child being hit or spanked with a hand or an object.
- Cruel treatment of a child that includes substantial and observable impairment of the child's functioning.
- Sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or rape of a child.
- Exposure of a child to sexual conduct or contact by observation, photography, film, etc.
- Lack of adequate food, shelter, medical care.
- Inadequate supervision. DHS looks at the maturity of the child, the environment and the length of time a child is left alone in order to determine if they are being adequately supervised. Generally, children under 10 are not to be left alone and over 10 may be left alone for appropriate periods based on the child's level of maturity and the environment the child is in.
- Threatening to harm a child, or subjecting their health or welfare to substantial risk of harm. An example is a child being in a moving vehicle with an impaired adult driver.

Car Seat Recommendations for Children

"Best Practice" for Safer Travel

Children should ride properly restrained on **every trip** in every type of transportation.



- Infants and toddlers under 2 years of age should ride in a rear facing car seat.
- Toddlers should ride in a forward facing car seat only after they outgrow the rear facing limits on the car seat.
- Older children should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat after they outgrow the harness on the car seat.
- All children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old.
- All passengers should be safely restrained in a lap and shoulder safety belt.

Parents often look forward to transitioning from one stage to the next, but these transitions should generally be delayed until they are necessary - when the child outgrows the limits for their current stage.

Additional Safety Tips

Rear Facing: Never place a rear facing child in front of an active frontal air bag.

Forward Facing: Use the top tether when the anchor is available or have an anchor installed.

Booster: Have your older child use a booster seat until the lap and shoulder belt fit properly - even if age 8 or older or taller than 4'9" in height.

Attend a check-up event or meet with a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician to make sure children are riding safely. Call or visit www.childsafetyseat.org for a calendar of check-up events.

Refer to the child safety seat manufacturer's manual and the car seat information in your vehicle owner's manual for specific details.



When is my child ready to ride in a safety belt?

1. Is the child tall enough to sit with their back against the vehicle seat back?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder over the collarbone?
4. Is the lap belt low, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the entire trip?

A "No" answer means the child should continue riding in a booster seat for best protection.

Oregon Occupant Protection Laws

Child Restraints: Child passengers must be restrained in approved child safety seats until they weigh 40 pounds or reach the upper weight limit for the car seat in use. Infants must ride rear facing until they reach both one year of age **AND** 20 pounds.

Booster Seats: Children over 40 pounds **OR** who have reached the upper weight limit of their car seat's harness system, must use a booster seat until they are 4'9" tall **OR** age 8.

Safety Belts: A child taller than 4'9" **OR** age 8 or older must be properly secured with the vehicle's safety belt. The child is properly secured if the lap belt is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck.

Failure to properly use safety belts or child restraints is a Class D traffic violation with a \$110.00 fine.

(ORS 811.210 and ORS 815.055, effective January 1, 2012.)



www.ChildSafetySeat.org

