

Parent Tips: GETTING TWEENS TO BUCKLE UP



A TWEEN SAFETY RESTRAINT INITIATIVE
Created by Safe Communities and funded by a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

5 Ways to Get Your Tween Safely Buckled Up in a Back Seat

Most parents agree it's the right thing to do. Every child should wear his or her seat belt, and, if they are under 13 the child should sit in a back seat. The challenge is making it happen. **But guess what you may have more influence than you think.** When 8- to 13-year-olds were asked in a recent survey what might get them to wear a seat belt, most cited their own parents. What's more, tweens mimic their parents when it comes to belts. If parents buckle up, so do their children. How can you get your child buckled safely in the back? Check out these five ideas.

1 Let them pick the radio stations.

Eight to 12-year-olds, like tweens everywhere, are eager to make their own choices, and picking a radio station is often high on their list. Make a deal with your child. If the child sits buckled in the back, he or she can pick the radio stations. Otherwise, it's my old-fogey music or the radio news.

2 Give them something to do.

A back seat can be a great place for playing electronic games. Store games in a back seat and make games in the front seat off limits.

3 Let them own the space.

Tweens are eager to claim their own space. Let them set up places to keep things in a back seat so that's the first place they want to go.

4 Buckle up.

Tweens do what you do -- if you buckle up, they are more likely to do the same.

5 Tell them it's the law.

Seat belts are mandatory by law. Let tweens know safety belt use isn't an option; it's the law.



Source: Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety, Inc.



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