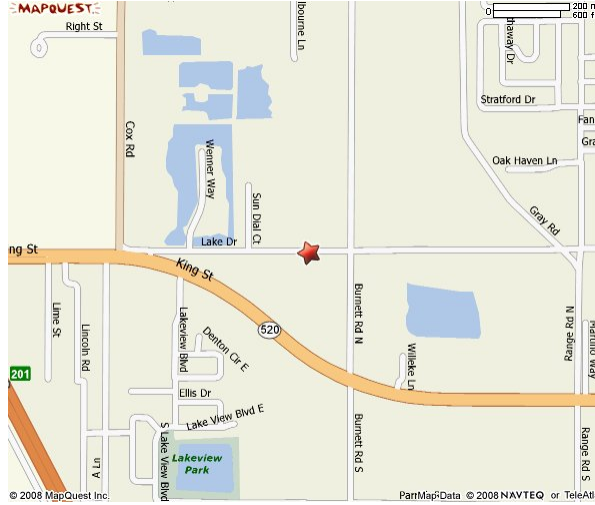


# Information about your local Brevard County Extension Service:

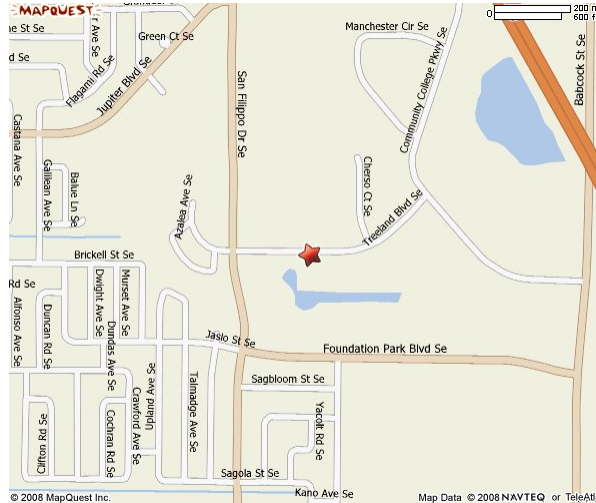
University of Florida—IFAS Brevard

County Extension Service has two convenient locations that offer classes. Our classes range from gardening, pesticide licensing, aquatics (ponds, plants, fishing, boating), nutrition, finance, housing and injury prevention.

For more information about our classes or to see our schedule please check our website at <http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu> or call the office closest to you. Preregistration is required for car seat checks and most other classes and can be done over the phone or online.



Cocoa Extension Office  
3965 Lake Dr.  
Cocoa, FL 32926  
321-633-1702



Palm Bay Extension Office  
1455 Treeland Blvd. SE  
Palm Bay, FL 32909  
321-952-4536

# Kids and Cars:

## A Child Passenger Safety Primer



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, F.S., persons needing accommodations or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should notify the University of Florida Brevard County Extension Service no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting at 321-633-1702 or fax 321-633-1890.

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

# Protecting Your Child from the Start

From the day your child is born, they look to you for protection. As a parent, your child's safety extends from the home to the vehicle. However, many parents are unsure how to best protect their children while in a vehicle.

To provide your child with the greatest protection while in a vehicle, follow the 4-Steps for Kids guidelines recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Safe Kids Worldwide. No matter what stage your child is in, remember that children are safest in the back seat, and always read your vehicle and child safety seat instructions to ensure proper installation and use.

## Step 1—Infants

Infants should ride rear-facing until a minimum of 1 year old AND 20 pounds.



However, the American Association of Pediatrics and other safety advocates recommend keeping children rear facing as long as possible, as the rear facing position provides greater protection for the child's head, neck and spinal cord. Most convertible car seats can be used rear-facing up to between 30 and 35 pounds. Never put a rear-facing seat in front of an air bag.

## Step 2—Toddlers

Toddlers can ride forward-facing at one year old and 20 pounds. Remember, though, that the longer a child is rear-facing, the safer he is.

Forward facing seats can be convertible (go both rear-facing and forward-facing) or combination (used with an internal harness then removed and used as a booster). Forward facing seats should be used until the child's shoulder goes above the uppermost harness slots, the middle of their ears reach the top of the seat, and the upper weight limit is exceeded. Most forward facing seats have a harness weight limit of 40 pounds, though many seats now go to higher weight limits, such as 65 or even 80 pounds.



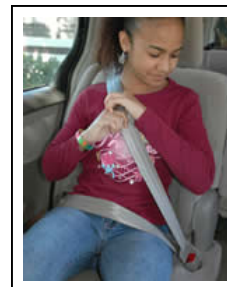
## Step 3—Boosters

Once a child reaches the upper weight and height limits of child safety seat, she should move to a booster seat. Booster seats are used with a vehicle's lap and shoulder belt. The general rule is that children remain in a booster until at least 4 feet 9 inches or 80 pounds.



## Step 4—Safety Belts

The last step of safety for your child is the vehicle lap and shoulder belt. To determine if your child is ready for this step, perform the "Safety Belt Fit Test" found at <http://www.usa.safekids.org/skbu/cps/boosters.html>.



SAFETY FIRST!



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