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Child passenger safety - safety counts

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Do you know if your child is in the right safety seat? While they may be old enough, they still may not weigh enough, or be tall enough to buckle up and skip the booster or car seat.

National Child Passenger Safety Week is Sept. 23-29. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants to ensure all caregivers of young children know the importance of buckling children in an appropriate child restraint. Motorists can also expect increased enforcement of Missouri's child seat safety laws during this campaign.

In 2017, 12 children less than eight years of age were killed and 43 suffered injuries as occupants in motor vehicle crashes in Missouri. Thirty-one percent of the children killed were not restrained in a car seat or safety belt.

Missouri law requires all children under 8 to be in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat, unless:

1. They are at least 80 pounds
2. They are at least 4'9" tall
3. While Missouri law only requires one of them, safety encourages all of them.

"All parents and caregivers need to understand the importance of booster seats. It's not just about following the law - booster seats help prevent serious injury and may even save

your child's life," said Jon Nelson, chair of the executive committee for the coalition.

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