



Car Safety for Children in Hip or Leg Casts

Children with casts may have special needs that can affect how they travel. This fact sheet answers some questions you might have about transporting your child.

If my child has a cast, will she fit in her car seat?

That depends on the type of cast and whether your child can sit up.

If your child has a cast AND CAN sit up:

- Your child's own car safety seat will probably work unless the cast is too wide (Figure 1) to fit inside the car seat. In that case a car seat with low sides may work.
- Use a car seat with a five-point harness. Make sure to support your child's legs with pillows, foam or blankets if needed.

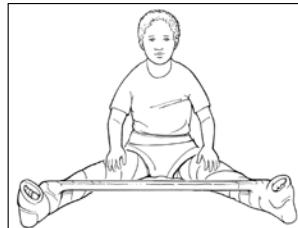


Figure 1

If your child has a cast AND CANNOT sit up:

- Your child may need a special restraint such as a car bed (Figure 2 and 3), Snug Seat Hippo car seat (Figure 4), or modified E-Z-ON vest (Figure 5). Approved car beds are for infants who must lie down in the car. The Snug Seat Hippo is a car seat made specifically for kids in casts. The modified vest is for children at least one year old and at least 20 pounds who need to travel lying down.
- In some cases, a child safety seat with low sides and shallow seat depth may fit your child.
- NEVER transport your child on a vehicle seat reclined more than allowed by the vehicle manufacturer. The seat belts will not hold your child's body properly, and he could slide out from under the seat belt system.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

- Your child may need to be transported by an ambulance if she doesn't fit in an approved car bed, car safety seat, or modified vest (Figure 5).



Figure 5

Car Bed	Weight	Height	Phone
Dream Ride SE (Figure 2)	5-20 pounds	19-26 inches	800-544-1108 www.mecurydistributing.com
Hope (Figure 3)	4.5-35 pounds	Up to 29 inches	317-409-0148 www.eztether.com
Convertible			
Snug Seat Hippo (Figure 4)	5-65 pounds	Up to 49 inches	704- 882-0668 www.snugseat.com
Vest			
Modified E-Z-ON Vest (Figure 5)	20-100 pounds 2 sizes	Child must fit lengthwise on a vehicle bench seat	800-323-6598 www.ezonpro.com

How can I be sure my child is buckled up correctly?

Always read and follow the directions that come with your car safety seat and your vehicle owner's manual. You can find a certified child passenger safety technician who is trained in special needs transportation at <http://cert.safekids.org>. Click on "Find a Tech." In the CPS Technician search form, make sure to click "Special Needs" in the Extra Training field. If there is not someone trained in special needs transportation in your area, please call 800-755-0912 for further assistance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN.

800-755-0912

www.preventinjury.org

Inclusion of products in this brochure does not imply endorsement.

Figure 3 source: www.eztether.com



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