



Seat belt safety – making a cardboard box vehicle

Making and using a cardboard box car supports children to learn about the importance of seat belts and how they keep us safe when we are in the car.

18mths
– 4y

This experience will work best for:

Children aged 18 months – 4 years.
Younger children will need help, older children should be able to do most of this by themselves.



WHAT YOU NEED

- A cardboard box big enough for your child to get in – a big nappy box is ideal
- Art materials for decorating the box vehicle – you can use whatever you have.
- Lengths of ribbon or fabric to use as the seat belt (Upcycling tip - you could use an old t-shirt cut into strips).
- A round object to use as a steering wheel – for example, a paper or plastic plate.

HOW TO DO IT

Cut the base from the box, just leaving the sides.

Add lengths of ribbon or tape as straps to use as a seat belt and to hold the car up by punching some holes in the box and tying the ribbon on.

Decorate the box with your craft materials.

Add a smaller box in the back as a car seat for a favourite toy – don't forget the right kind of seat belt for the toy.

Hop in, put your seat belt on and off you go!

Talk about seat belt and car seat safety.



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Starting Out Safely



WHAT YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING

Words that describe being safe and support children's learning about being safe on the roads.

Everyone needs an appropriate seat belt or car seat in a car to keep safe.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

The more we use road safety language the more familiar our children will become with it. This makes understanding road rules easier to learn and the importance of road safety easier as they get older.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU CHILD AND WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

"Is everyone safe in the car?"

"Do you have your seat belts on?"

"Is it safe to go? Ok, lets go".

Discuss concepts like stop, go, fast, slow.

Hold up traffic signs (see our resource for how to make them) for your child and give the instruction – Stop, go, give way, slow down.



SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

<https://childroadsafety.org.au/parents/road-safety-songs/>



WAYS TO EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY

Make your own street signs and put them in the house or back yard. Check out our Street signs activity for how to do this.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

<https://childroadsafety.org.au/cars/child-car-seats/>



ASK...

"Is everyone safe in the car?"

"Do you have your seat belts on?"