

# Carpool Safety

Preteens' busy schedules often put parents and kids on the road for hours every week. One of the best ways to cope is to share the driving with other parents.

## **Before you load up the neighborhood preteens, set these ground rules for safe carpooling:**

- Plan your route so children can enter and exit the car on the curbside.
- At each stop, check that everyone is buckled up before putting the car back in gear.
- When dropping off children, wait till they are safely supervised before driving off.
- Never leave children alone in the car, even for a few minutes.
- Make it a rule that everyone under 13 rides in a back seat. This is the safest place for preteens and younger children to sit.
- If a child under 13 must sit in a front seat, disable the airbag if the child does not meet the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Every child must have a safety belt. Sharing seat belts is not safe.
- Don't allow children to wear shoulder belts under their arm or behind their back.
- Treat unused seat belts like any other cord. Remind kids not to play with them.
- If high spirits get out of control, let your riders know you can't drive safely when you are distracted. Pull the car over until they have calmed down.
- Walk completely around the car looking for kids, toys and pets before entering the car and starting the engine.



**Click with your Preteen**  
*Help your preteen buckle up. For life.*

