**Car Seat Policy and Procedure**

At Sandcastle Nursery and Preschool Ltd it is our obligation and duty to protect all children within our care at all times. In line with the Car Seat Law, Staff will not permit anyone to take a child into a moving vehicle without the appropriate car restraint.

If a child needs to be collected and a car seat is not available staff will issue the person collecting with either a pushchair (if possible) or a walking harness.

If a parent/carer chooses to not abide to the law we will notify the MASH-Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub team and or the police.

If the management team are made aware of a parents/carer not using a car seat, they will speak to the parent/carer and ensure that they are aware of the car seat policy and law.

For further information please follows the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules/using-a-child-car-seat-or-booster-seat>

<http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/the-law/>

**Using a child car seat or booster seat**

Children must [normally use a child car seat](https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules/when-a-child-can-travel-without-a-car-seat) until they’re 12 years old or 135cm tall, whichever comes first.

Only EU-approved child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital ‘E’ in a circle.

You can choose a child car seat based on your child’s height or weight.

**Height-based car seats**

Height-based car seats are known as ‘i-Size’ seats. They must be rear-facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing car seat when they’re over 15 months old.

You must check the seat to make sure it’s suitable for the height of your child.

**Weight-based car seats**

The seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight.

You may be able to choose from more than one type of seat.

| **Child’s weight** | **Car seat** |
| --- | --- |
| 0kg to 9kg | Lie-flat or ‘lateral’ baby carrier, rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness |
| 0kg to 13kg | Rear-facing baby carrier or rear-facing baby seat using a harness |
| 9kg to 18kg | Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield |
| 15kg to 36kg | Rear- or forward-facing child seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion) using a seat belt, harness or safety shield |

**Height-based car seats**

Height-based car seats are known as ‘i-Size’ seats. They must be rear-facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing car seat when they’re over 15 months old.

You must check the seat to make sure it’s suitable for the height of your child.

**Below is direct from the government website 28th September 2017**

**2. When a child can travel without a car seat**

A child can travel without a child car seat in some circumstances.

**Taxis and minicabs (private hire vehicles)**

If the driver doesn’t provide the [correct child car seat](https://www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules/using-a-child-car-seat-or-booster-seat), children can travel without one - but only if they travel on a rear seat:

* and wear an adult seat belt if they’re 3 or older
* without a seat belt if they’re under 3

**Minibuses, coaches and vans**

Minibus or coach drivers and companies don’t have to provide child car seats. You must provide your own if you want to make sure a child has one.

**Coaches**

Children can travel without a child car seat or seat belt, if they’re not available.

**Minibuses**

All children must travel in rear seats (any seats behind the driver) if a child car seat or an adult seat belt isn’t fitted.

Children aged 3 or older must:

* use a child car seat if there’s one available in a minibus
* use an adult seat belt if child car seats are not fitted or are unsuitable

**Vans**

The rules for vans are the same as for cars.

**Unexpected journeys**

If the correct child car seat isn’t available, a child aged 3 or older can use an adult seat belt if the journey is all of the following:

* unexpected
* necessary
* over a short distance

You can’t take children under 3 on an unexpected journey in a vehicle without the correct child car seat, unless both of the following apply:

* it’s a licensed taxi or minicab
* the child travels on a rear seat without a seat belt

**No room for a third child car seat**

Children under 3 must be in a child car seat. If there’s no room for a third child car seat in the back of the vehicle, the child must travel in the front seat with the correct child car seat.

Children aged 3 or older can sit in the back using an adult belt.

**Vehicles without seat belts**

Children under 3 must be in a child car seat. If there’s no seat belt, they can’t travel.

A child aged 3 or older can travel in a back seat without a child car seat and without a seat belt if the vehicle doesn’t have one.