



How to Keep Your Family Safe on the Road as a New Parent

Welcoming a child into the world is one of the most rewarding steps you can take in life. With your child, however, you're also welcoming an abundance of responsibilities that is hard to imagine until you become a parent.

Of all these responsibilities, none is more critical than ensuring your child's safety in the vehicle. As a parent, it's essential to make sure your car is well maintained and that you practice safe driving on a daily basis. Here are some quick tips on how to keep your family protected on the road:

Get the right insurance.

One of the first things you should do is review your car insurance. Consider your current situation to determine what kind of coverage you need. If you have more than one vehicle in the family, you [may qualify](#) for a multi-car discount. Most of the time, carrier requirements for this discount state that each vehicle must be kept primarily at the same property, covered for liability (storage coverage isn't enough), and meet the specifications of a private passenger vehicle.

Have your car seat examined.

Before you drive away from the hospital with your new bundle of joy, you will want to have a new or reliable car seat [installed correctly](#). Thoroughly read the instruction manual that comes with the car seat to ensure you install your particular seat in the right place in the back seat, at the right tightness, at the right angle and so on. After you've installed the seat, be sure to [get it checked](#) by a local Child Passenger Safety Technician.

Invest in a smartphone you can count on.

A high-powered smartphone can assist you when you're on the road. These phones have GPS and access to traffic reports and are a necessity if your car ever breaks down and you need to call for assistance. You can also use many models hands-free so you can concentrate on what's in front of you. If your smartphone is more than a few years old, it may be worth investing in a new model. For instance, the Samsung Galaxy S10 is lightweight, durable, and [ultra-fast](#), and it can read content [out loud](#) when you have messages and calls while driving. If you're an iPhone user, the iPhone 11 is a high-performing model that will send callers an [automatic message](#) that lets them know you're on the road and can't talk.

Take your vehicle in for regular maintenance.

Part of keeping your family protected on the road is making sure you keep up with preventative maintenance. Keep records of your [maintenance appointments](#) so that you always know when it's time to take your vehicle in. Not only will this help you to avoid astronomical and unexpected repair costs, but it will also confirm that the safety features work properly, and it will help to prevent mechanical failure that can cause you to break down or get in an accident.

Learn how to practice basic upkeep.

Along with going in for regular maintenance, it's important to learn what you can do yourself to keep your vehicle in tip-top shape. Basic upkeep for your vehicle includes things like:

- Checking the [fluids](#) and replacing when necessary
- Checking the tires for [wear](#), sidewall bubbles, punctures, etc.
- Maintaining the optimal air pressure in tires
- Clearing corrosion on the battery
- Replacing [windshield wiper blades](#) when needed
- Taking the vehicle to a mechanic when you see warning lights

Upkeeping your vehicle can keep your family safe and help you avoid having to pay a mechanic for everything.

Maintain focus at all times.

Last but not least—don't allow [distractions](#) to compromise your family's safety while driving. Living in the technology age means that we are more distracted than any generation before us.

Nonetheless, you must always dedicate your full attention to the road when you're driving your child around. This means pulling over to comfort a crying child, waiting until you are parked to use your phone, not searching for a radio station, not eating a messy meal and so on. And at all costs, avoid driving while drowsy.

Becoming a parent is one of the great joys in life, and it's essential to embrace the responsibility of keeping your child safe on the road. Make sure you have the best insurance coverage for your situation, and get your car seat checked by a professional after you install it. Also, keep track of your maintenance appointments, and learn basic upkeep practices to do at home. Finally, make focus your first priority when you hit the road.

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