

Facts About Car Seats

The BEST place to go for car seat information is the Instruction Manual of the car seat and the Owner's Manual to your car. They will teach you which type of seat belt system you have and how to install your car seat correctly.

INFANT SEATS (Rear-Facing Only) – For children between 5 & 22 pounds

- Infant seats should be installed to face the rear of the vehicle.
- Never install a rear facing car seat in the front seat of a car that has an air bag.
- The carrying handle should be in the down position while driving, on most models.
- The harness straps should be snug. No slack between the collar bone and the harness.
- The retainer clip should be at armpit level.
- When choosing a car seat it is recommended to get one with a 5-point harness.
- Never place any extra padding between your child and the harness straps. That means no puffy coats, head positioners that did not come with the seat, or snow bunny outfits. In a crash these will compress and give more room for your child to slip out.
- The harness straps should come out of the seat slots at or below child's shoulders when rear facing.
- All children should remain rear facing until they reach at least one year of age and 20 pounds, although the AAP recommends a child stay rear-facing to the maximum rear facing weight limit of the car seat (usually 30 to 35 pounds).



CONVERTIBLE SEATS (Rear & Forward-Facing) – For children between 5 & 40lbs

- The harness straps should be snug, and the retainer clip should be at armpit level.
- When placed forward facing, the tether strap should be hooked to a designated anchor point. If the car does not have an anchor point, the dealer should be able to install one for you.
- When placed forward facing the harness straps should be moved to the reinforced slots (top slots) on most convertible seats. The seat must be moved to the upright position.
- The harness straps should come out of the seat slots at or above child's shoulders when forward facing.



COMBINATION SEATS (Forward-Facing Only) – For children over 1 year and between 20 & 80lbs

- The harness straps should be snug, and the retainer clip should be at armpit level.
- When placed forward facing, the tether strap should be hooked to a designated anchor point. If the car does not have an anchor point, the dealer should be able to install one for you.
- The straps should come out of the seat slots at or above child's shoulders when forward facing.
- After 40lbs the seat can be converted into a belt positioning booster seat. Refer to car seat owners manual.



BOOSTER SEATS (Forward-Facing Only) – For children under 4'9" and between 40 and 80lbs

- Booster seats require a lap AND shoulder belt.
- All children under 4'9" and between 40 and 80 pounds should ride in a booster seat.
- Keep in mind that regular seat belts are designed to fit men who are 5'10" and who weigh 160 pounds. A child under 4'9" will not fit correctly in a seat belt alone.
- Booster seats are not designed to be used with a lap belt only.
- Use a backless booster if your vehicle has an adjustable headrest, use a high back booster if your vehicle has no head protection for the child (bench seat).



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 851-7035 OR 851-7068

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration www.nhtsa.gov

Safe Kids Worldwide www.safekids.org