

Using the correct car seat or booster seat can be a lifesaver. Make sure your child is always buckled in an age- and size-appropriate car seat or booster seat.



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Birth until age 2–4

Buckle children in a rear-facing car seat with a harness until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible. Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat. Front passenger air bags can injure or kill young children in a crash.



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

After outgrowing rear-facing car seat and until at least age 5

When children outgrow their rear-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat.



BOOSTER SEAT

After outgrowing forward-facing car seat and until seat belt fits properly

When children outgrow their forward-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat until the seat belt fits properly without a booster seat. Proper seat belt fit usually occurs when children are age 9–12.



SEAT BELT

When seat belt fits properly without a booster seat

Children no longer need to use a booster seat when the seat belt fits them properly. A seat belt fits properly when the lap belt is across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt is across the center of the shoulder and chest (not on the neck/face or off the shoulder).

Keep children age 12 and younger properly buckled in the back seat.

*Recommended age ranges for each seat type vary to account for differences in child growth and weight/height limits of car seats and booster seats. Use the car seat or booster seat manual to check for important information about installation, the seat weight and height limits, and proper seat use.

Child passenger safety recommendations: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2018.

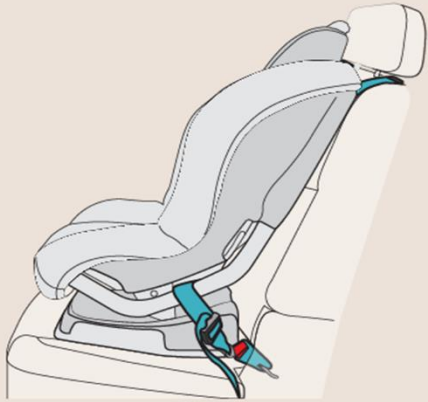
www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child_passenger_safety

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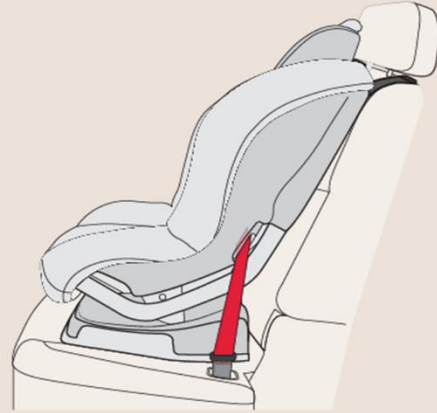
Is your child's car seat properly installed?

Use LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) to install the car seat. Check your car seat owner's manual and vehicle owner's manual for LATCH weight limits.

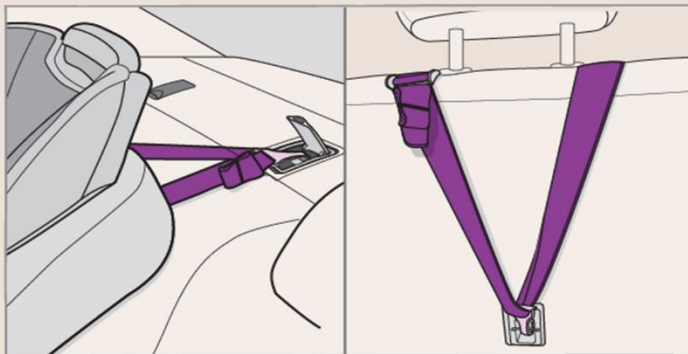


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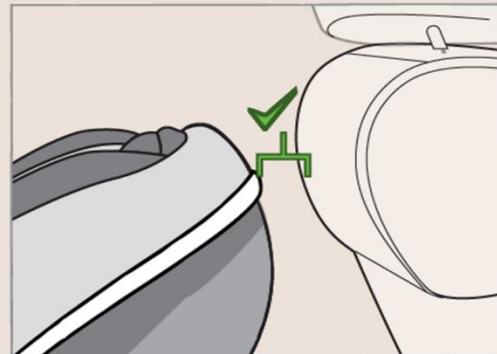
Use the vehicle's seat belt by placing it through back and/or bottom of child safety seat as indicated on the seat/user's manual. Make sure seat belt is buckled and locked.



Regardless of whether you use LATCH or the vehicle's seat belt to install, ALWAYS ensure the top tether is tightly secured for forward facing seats.



Many rear-facing car seats should not touch the front seat. Check to see if your car seat has the 1" rule.



The car seat should not be able to move more than 1 inch from side-to-side or front-to-back.



Check the installation guides in the car seat owner's manual and vehicle owner's manual.



**Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.
Always properly buckle children aged 12 and under in the back seat!**



Rear-facing Car Seat

Birth until age 2-4*



- ✓ Child's head at least 1" below top of car seat.
- ✓ Harness straps are **at or below** child's shoulders.
- ✓ Chest clip is buckled and at armpit level.
- ✓ Harness straps are snug; you can't pinch them.

Rear-facing Car Seats: Where do the straps go?

If car seat is rear-facing:

CORRECT:



- ✓ Harness straps are **at or below** child's shoulders.

INCORRECT:



- ✗ Harness straps are above child's shoulders.

Good Seat Belt Fit with High-back Booster Seat

✓ **GOOD** fit:



- ✓ The shoulder belt lays across the middle of the chest and shoulder.
- ✓ The lap belt lays across the upper thighs.

✗ **BAD** fit:



- ✗ The shoulder belt lays too close to or on the neck or face; or too far out on shoulder.
- ✗ The lap belt lays on the stomach.

Booster Seats Make Seat Belts Fit Better

✗ **BAD** seat belt fit:



- ✗ The shoulder belt lays too close to or on the neck or face; or too far out on shoulder.
- ✗ The lap belt lays on the stomach.

✓ **GOOD** seat belt fit with booster seat:



- ✓ The shoulder belt lays across the middle of the chest and shoulder.
- ✓ The lap belt lays across the upper thighs.

Always properly buckle children aged 12 and under in the back seat!



Forward-facing Car Seat

After outgrowing rear-facing seat until at least age 5*

- ✓ Hook and tighten the car seat's tether.
- ✓ Harness straps are **at or above** child's shoulders.
- ✓ Chest clip is buckled at armpit level.
- ✓ Harness straps are snug, you can't pinch them.



*Until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their forward-facing car seat. Always properly buckle children aged 12 and under in the back seat!

Forward-facing Car Seat: Where do the straps go?

If car seat is forward-facing:

CORRECT:



- ✓ Harness straps are **at or above** shoulders.

INCORRECT:



- ✗ Harness straps are below shoulders.