

CAR SEAT GUIDELINES

- Car seats should be installed tightly using the vehicle seat belt or LATCH system. There should be no more than one inch of movement side to side or front to back.
- Do not place rear-facing car seats in the front seat of vehicles with air bags.
- All children under 2 years old should ride rear-facing. You may switch from an infant seat to a convertible car seat before age 2 years as long as your child remains rear-facing and fits the height and weight requirements of the seat.
- All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat.
- A car seat must be replaced if it has been in a moderate or severe crash. Consider replacing seats that have been in a minor crash.
- Always read the car seat manufacturer's instruction manual and your vehicle owner's manual for specific installation instructions.
- For complete guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics visit www.healthychildren.org and search for "Car Seats".

Infants/Toddlers (Birth to 2 years)

Weight/Height Requirements: Make sure your child fits within the weight and height limits of the car seat.

Types of Seats: Rear-facing only seat, Convertible seat

Seat Position: Rear-facing

Installation Tips: Harness straps should slide through the slots that are at or below shoulder level. Straps should fit snugly against your child. Make sure the seat is at the correct angle so your child's head does not flop forward.

Toddlers/Preschoolers (2 and 3 year olds)

Weight/Height Requirements: Make sure your child fits within the weight and height limits of the car seat.

Types of Seats: Convertible seat, Forward-facing only seat, Combination seat with harness.

Seat Position: Forward-facing.

Installation Tips: Harness straps should slide through the slots that are at or above shoulder level. Some seats require using the top harness slot for the forward-facing position. Also, you may have to adjust the angle of the seat.

Young Children (4 to 12 year olds)

Weight/Height Requirements: Children should remain in a booster seat until the seat belt fits properly, typically when they are 4 feet 9 inches tall and between 8 and 12 years of age. They should be able to use just the seat belt when they can ride with their knees bent at the seat edge without slouching and with their seat belt low across their upper thighs and snug across their shoulder and middle chest.

Types of Seats: High back booster seat, Backless booster seat

Seat Position: Forward-facing

Installation Tips: Belt-positioning booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belts. Make sure the lap belt fits low and snug across your child's upper thighs. The shoulder strap should cross the mid-chest and shoulder.