# Know for Sure | If Your Child is in the Right Car Seat

## Choosing A Car Seat

- When it comes to selecting the right car seat for your child, one size does not fit all.
- There are four types of car seats: rear-facing, forward-facing, booster, and the standard seat belt.

### Rear-Facing Car Seat (Newborn - 2 Years)
- Children under two are required by law to be in a rear-facing car seat.
- There are different types of rear-facing seats: infant-only, convertible and all-in-one. Infant-only is strictly for rear-facing. Convertible and all-in-one seats typically have bigger height and weight limits, allowing you to keep child in a rear-facing seat longer.

### Forward-Facing Car Seat
- Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing seat with a harness and tether which limits forward movement during a crash.

### Booster Seat
- When your child reaches the top height or weight limit in a forward-facing seat, it is time to move up to a booster seat.
- Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly.
- A properly fitted seat belt must lie across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie across the shoulder and chest.
- Children 12 and under should always ride in the back seat.

### Seat Belt (8 Years and Up)
- A properly fitted seat belt must lie across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie across the shoulder and chest.
- Children 12 and under should always ride in the back seat.

## What We Do
- Show you how to properly install your car seat
- Adjust your harness so that it fits your child
- Discuss graduation, when your child can safely move to the next seat
- Check for recalls on your seat
- Give you the most current safety information

## What The Law Says
- Children under 2 years old, weighing under 40 pounds and under 40 inches tall must ride in a rear-facing car seat.
- Children under the age of 8 must be secured in a car or booster seat in the back seat.
- Children who are 8 years old OR have reached a height of 4'9" may be secured by a booster seat, but at a minimum must be secured by a safety belt.

## Contact Us

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**Go Safely California**

California Office of Traffic Safety

**Petaluma Police**

**NHTSA**

NHTSA.gov/Therightseat

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