

CAR SEAT SAFETY GUIDE



PROPER FIT AND INSTALLATION

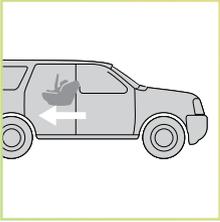
When shopping for a car seat consider these five steps crucial to your child's safety.



SELECTION

Find the best car seat for you

Choose a seat that best fits your child and your vehicle. Make sure features of the car seat are easy to use and understand, so you have confidence you're installing it correctly.



DIRECTION

Rear-Facing or Forward-Facing?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children remain in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the seat.



LOCATION

Tight install every time

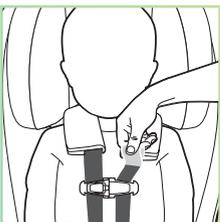
The safest seating position is the one that works best for your car seat, vehicle and family. Choose the location that provides the tightest installation every time using either seat belt or LATCH.



INSTALLATION

Read the manuals

Technology changes and manufacturers are always thinking of new ways to keep children safe. Be sure to read your vehicle and car seat manuals for proper instructions and to stay up to date.



PROPER FIT

Position harness straps and chest clip properly

In most car seats, manufacturers say the harness should be at or slightly below the child's shoulders when rear-facing. For forward-facing children, place the harness at or slightly above the child's shoulders. The harness should always be snug so you can't pull the strap from the body or pinch the webbing together. The straps should be flat and untwisted, and the chest clip should be at armpit level.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13.*

That's why it's so important to **choose the right car seat**
and **use it correctly!**

*www.nhtsa.gov

WHEN TO TRANSITION

Remember to check your state laws! Some states provide age and/or height requirements for transitions between car seats or into a seat belt.



Infant Car Seat to
Rear-Facing Convertible

UPPAbaby recommends transitioning out of an infant car seat to a rear-facing convertible seat by a child's first birthday to ensure their body is properly contained in the event of a crash.

Always note the height and weight requirements of the car seat (whichever comes first). You must move a child to a convertible seat when the top of their head is 1" or less from the top of the carrier or headrest.



Rear-Facing Convertible to
Forward-Facing Convertible

Infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible. Most convertible seats have limits that all children should ride rear-facing for two years or more.

In a frontal crash, a rear-facing seat cocoons and catches a child, distributing the crash forces more evenly, thus reducing the risk of potential injury.



Forward-Facing Convertible to
Belt Positioning Booster

Keep a child in a car seat with a five-point harness and a top tether as long as possible to ensure they are properly secured. A five-point harness fits smaller children much better than a vehicle belt would in a booster. Allow your child to stay until they reach the weight or height requirements of the car seat they are using prior to moving into a booster seat.



Belt Positioning Booster to
No Car Seat (*Three-Point Vehicle Belt*)

A Belt Positioning Booster 'boosts' children up so the vehicle belt hits the hard points of the body like it would an adult in a vehicle seat.

To ensure a child is ready for a seat belt, the following is recommended:

- The shoulder belt should cross their collar bone then cross their chest cavity
- The lap belt should sit across their lower hip bones and never across their belly
- Knees should bend at the edge of the vehicle seat cushion
- No slouching: a child should be mature enough to sit with the seat belt positioned properly as indicated above
- The child's back should rest flat against the vehicle seat back

SAFETY CHECKLIST

It's easier than you think to ensure your child is properly protected in your vehicle, just follow this list!

- Installation should be tight**
The car seat should not move more than 1" in the belt path

- Store loose objects in the trunk**
Anything unrestrained in the vehicle can be a projectile

- No bulky clothing under harness**
Too much padding can give a false sense of tightness

- Car seats expire**
Check labeling on the seats or with the manufacturer

- Place chest clip at armpit level**
Not too high or too low

- Conduct the pinch test**
When fitting your child's harness, ensure it's properly tightened

- Check installation often**
Adjust harness, check straps and review safety guidelines

- Read your manuals**
Every car and car seat have different installation instructions, so make sure you read both

- Choose the seat that fits your child's current age and weight**
As children grow, the types of restraints evolve (e.g., rear-facing only, convertible, booster, or seat belt)

- Avoid air bags**
Children in rear-facing seats should never be placed in front of an active passenger air bag

- Keep children in the back seat until at least age 13**
It's the safest place to ride

- Remember to register**
Register your car seat so you can be notified in the event of a safety recall

- Always wear your seatbelt**
Children are more likely to buckle up if you do

