CAR SEAT SAFETY

CAR INJURIES are the leading cause of death among children in the US. 1

Child safety seats can reduce that risk by up to 71% when installed correctly. 2

51% of side impact collisions involving infants result in death. 3

FIND THE BEST CAR SEAT.
Choose the one that best fits your child and your vehicle.

All current car seats are required to pass government safety standards. It’s important to select a model that gives you the confidence that you’re installing it correctly. Make sure the features are easy to use and understand.

PROPER FIT AND INSTALLATION ARE CRUCIAL TO YOUR CHILD’S SAFETY. WHEN SHOPPING FOR A CAR SEAT CONSIDER THESE 5 STEPS.

SELECTION
FIND THE BEST CAR SEAT.
Choose the one that best fits your child and your vehicle.

All current car seats are required to pass government safety standards. It’s important to select a model that gives you the confidence that you’re installing it correctly. Make sure the features are easy to use and understand.

DIRECTION
REAR-FACING IS SAFEST.
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends keeping your child rear-facing until age 2 or until they reach the maximum weight/height allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

LOCATION
REAR CENTER IS IDEAL.
The safest seating position is one that works best for your specific car seat, family, and vehicle. Whenever possible, position your child in the rear center seating position.

INSTALLATION
READ MANUALS.
Technology is constantly changing and manufacturers are always thinking of new ways to keep your children safe. Stay up to date and read your current vehicle and car seat manuals for proper use instructions.

PROPER FIT
POSITION HARNESS STRAPS PROPERLY.
The harness should be at or slightly below the child’s shoulders when rear-facing. This will prevent the child from sliding upwards in the event of a crash. (For older children who are forward-facing, place harness at or above the child’s shoulders.) Harness should be snug so that you cannot pull the strap from the body and pinch the fabric together. The straps should be flat and untwisted.

3 out of 4 car seats are installed incorrectly.

1 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2 Center for Disease Control, 3 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) by NHTSA, 2005-2009
SAFETY CHECKLIST

It’s easier than you think to ensure your seat is properly installed. Simply follow the checklist below!

☐ Always wear your seatbelt.
   Children are more likely to buckle up if you do.

☐ Place chest clip at armpit level.
   Not too high or too low.

☐ Installation should be tight.
   The base of the seat should not move more than an inch.

☐ Recline infant seat correctly.
   Rear-facing children are usually reclined no more than 45°.

☐ Store loose objects in trunk.
   Anything unrestrained in the vehicle can become a projectile.

☐ Use only manufacturer-approved products.
   Toys and accessories are not crash tested with the seat.

☐ No bulky clothing under harness.
   Too much padding can give a false sense of tightness.

☐ Car seats expire.
   Check with the manufacturer (the MESA has a 7-year expiration date).

☐ Use the seat correctly every ride.
   Take your time, even when you’re in a rush.

☐ Check installation often.
   Adjust harness, check straps, and review safety guidelines.

RESOURCES

UPPAbaby   uppababy.com
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration   nhtsa.gov
Centers for Disease Control   cdc.gov
Safe Kids Worldwide   safekids.org
American Academy of Pediatrics   aap.org
SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.   carseat.org
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety   iihs.org
Injury Free Coalition for Kids   injuryfree.org
Local Police, Fire Stations and Hospitals

AN INDUSTRY FIRST
SMARTSECURE™ SYSTEM

An industry first, MESA is the only infant car seat with a unique system utilizing a tightness indicator and self-retracting LATCH connectors for fast, accurate and easy installation. The indicator window turns from red to green when the MESA base is correctly connected providing parents with confidence that their car seat is safely installed every time.

More info at uppababy.com/mesa