



Types of Child Safety Restraints

Rear Facing: (Infant only) Birth to at least 1 year of age and 20 pounds. Seat is designed to be used only in a rear facing position. It is recommended that children ride in the rear facing position until two years of age. Infant should be reclined to 45 degrees to support their head and upper body. Harness straps for child safety seats in the rear facing position should be placed at or below shoulder level. Retainer clips should be placed at the infant's armpit level to ensure proper harness position.

Convertible: Birth to 40 pounds. Child safety seat can be reclined for rear-facing position and upright for forward facing positions. Newer products allow infants to ride rear facing up to 30-35 pounds. Forward facing positions, harness straps should be above the child's shoulder routed through the top slots of the seat. Retainer clip should be placed at armpit level to ensure proper harness position. Most vehicles can be equipped with tether restraints to help anchor forward-facing seats more securely.

Booster: For children over 40 pounds who have outgrown convertible/toddler seats. Booster seat is to be used until the vehicle lap/shoulder belts fit correctly, typically when the child is 4 feet 9 inches tall. A belt positioning booster is made to improve the fit of children's lap/shoulder belts. Some can be used for children up to 100 pounds.

Lap/Shoulder Belts: Children should use safety belts after they have outgrown booster seats and when the safety belt fit correctly. Children should be encouraged to sit in an upright position without slouching. The lap belt should lie across the top of the thighs, not over the abdomen. The shoulder belt should rest across the collar bone area and the center of the chest. Never place a shoulder belt behind the back or under the arm as it could cause serious injury in a collision.

The proper and consistent use of child safety seats could save a life. For best practice:

- Never place rear facing infants in front seat with passenger-side air bags
- Infants (under one year and 20 pounds) should always ride in rear facing position
- Child safety seats need to be secured in vehicle by safety belt or tether restraint
- Child must be buckled in a child safety seat
- Child safety seat harness straps must be at or below infant's shoulder (rear facing) and at or above toddler's shoulder (forward facing)
- Harness straps need to be snug- no more than one adult finger should fit under harness.
- Harness retainer clips must be at armpit level to hold harness strap properly over shoulder
- Vehicle safety belt or tether restraint must hold child safety seat tightly (no more than 1 inch of side-to-side or forward movement at belt path) and threaded through correct belt path
- Always refer to child safety seat instructions and vehicle manufacturer's instructions for weight limits, proper use and installation
- Children under 13 years of age should always ride in the back seat