

CAR SEAT SAFETY BASICS



Key Steps to Use Your Car Seat Correctly Every Ride

SELECTION:



- Select the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is right for the child's age, weight, height, and developmental needs.
- The right car seat, booster seat, or seat belt fits the child and the car, and will be used correctly every trip - every time.



DIRECTION:



- Use your car seat in the correct direction. This is especially important for children under age 2, who are safest when rear-facing until they reach the maximum height or weight of the car seat.
- Always follow the instructions on the car seat.

LOCATION:



- Pick the safest location in the car, which for children under 13 is always the back seat.
- Never place a rear-facing car seat near an active frontal airbag.



HARNESS ADJUSTMENT:



- Use the harness according to the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure it is properly routed through the correct slots (**at or below for rear-facing, at or above for forward-facing**).
- Position the chest clip at armpit level.
- Perform the pinch test at the child's shoulder—if no excess webbing can be pinched, the harness fit is appropriate.

INSTALLATION:



- Install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system as directed by the car seat and vehicle instructions.
- The seat should not move more than one-inch side-to-side or front-to-back when checked at the belt path.
- Always use the top tether with a forward-facing seat.



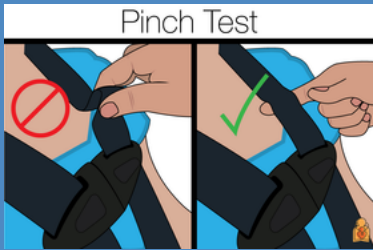
STEPS TO CORRECT HARNESS USE

Proper Harness Adjustment for Car Seats

Harness Fit



- **Rear-Facing:** The harness is threaded through the slots in the car seat back that are **AT or BELOW** the child's shoulders.
 - The child's head should be at least one-inch below the top of the car seat shell.
- **Forward-Facing:** The harness is threaded through the slots in the car seat back that are **AT or ABOVE** the child's shoulders.
 - The mid-point of the back of the child's head or top of the ears should not be above the shell of the car seat.



Harness Tightness

- The harness is snug and extra webbing cannot be pinched between the thumb and forefinger.



Chest Clip Placement

- The chest clip holds the harness shoulder straps together over the child's chest.
- Position the chest clip at armpit level.



Buckle Position

- Buckle webbing is threaded through the buckle slot that is closest to the child's body.
- The child should not be sitting on the buckle webbing.