

## Selection - Direction

- ◆ When children outgrow the rear-facing car seat, secure them in a forward-facing car seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.
- ◆ Read the car seat instructions and/or label to make sure the car seat is appropriate for the child's age, weight, and height.
- ◆ Be aware of height and weight limits as a child grows.
- ◆ Select a forward-facing car seat where the mid-point of the back of the head or the top of the ears are not above the top of the car seat shell.
- ◆ Forward-facing car seats reduce the risk of injury for children by 71% compared to children using the seat belt only.



### Choose the Right Car Seat

- ◆ Always read the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual.
  - ◆ Register the car seat to be notified of recalls.
- ◆ Select a car seat that is correct for the child's weight and height.
  - ◆ Always check the minimum and maximum weight allowed for a car seat.
- ◆ Select a car seat with an adjustable harness height to offer options for children as they grow.
  - ◆ Some car seats have adjustable positions for crotch straps for a better fit as the child grows.
- ◆ Always follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for guidelines on when the car seat must be replaced.



## Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics



### Convertible Car Seat

- ◆ Follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions when converting the car seat from rear-facing to forward-facing.
- ◆ Secure forward-facing in the car once the child has outgrown the rear-facing height or weight limit.
  - ◆ Forward-facing weight range is from 20 - 25 pounds and up to 40 - 85 pounds, although most car seats go up to 65 pounds.
- ◆ Car seat instructions may recommend the forward-facing car seat be secured in the upright position.



### Combination Car Seat

- ◆ Converts from a forward-facing-only car seat with a harness to a belt-positioning booster.
  - ◆ Harness weight range is 22 - 30 pounds up to 40 - 65 pounds.
- ◆ The back of a combination car seat is reinforced. Any harness slot can be used as long as it is at or above the child's shoulders.
- ◆ Once a child reaches the maximum weight or height limit for the harness system, remove the harness and use as a belt-positioning booster seat.



## Location

- ◆ All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.
- ◆ Determine whether the seat belt or lower connectors will be used to secure the car seat.
- ◆ Choose a seating position with a tether anchor. Use of a tether anchor limits the forward movement in a crash.
  - ◆ Weight limits on lower anchors and tether anchors can affect seating position choice.
- ◆ Select a seating position that allows for the correct use of the car seat.

### Where Do The Harness Straps Go?



#### Forward-facing seats

Straps should originate  
**AT or ABOVE**  
the child's shoulders



## Harness Adjustment and Fit

- ◆ The child is seated with no gap between their back and the back and bottom of the car seat.
- ◆ Harness adjustment for forward-facing:
  - ◆ Thread harness through reinforced slot **at or above** the child's shoulder.
  - ◆ Put the harness over the child's shoulders and buckle.
    - ◆ The harness holds the child back against the car seat in a crash
    - ◆ The crotch strap keeps the child from moving forward.
  - ◆ Tighten the harness straps snugly.
    - ◆ A snug harness does not permit excess webbing to be pinched at the shoulder or hips once the harness is buckled.
  - ◆ Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.

## Forward-Facing Car Seat Basics



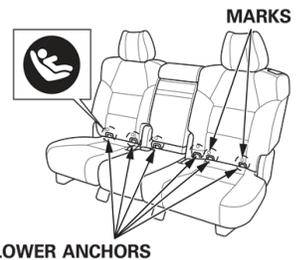
## Installation

- Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions to determine the appropriate upright or semi-upright angle when installing the car seat in the forward-facing position.
- Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower connectors through the correct forward-facing belt path.
- Secure the tether with the seat belt or lower anchors, whenever possible.
- Confirm the car seat does NOT move side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when tested at the belt path.

The lower anchor connectors are located on the lower part of the car seat.

- ◆ The **lower anchor connectors** on the car seat attach onto the lower anchors in the vehicle.

**Lower anchors** are the metal bars located in the vehicle seat bight.



LOWER ANCHORS

The **tether** is located on the upper part of the back of the car seat.

- ◆ The tether hook attaches to the tether anchor in the vehicle.

**Tether anchor location** will vary based on what type of vehicle you drive.



## General Method to Obtain a Tight Installation

- ◆ Place the car seat on the vehicle seat in the correct direction.
- ◆ Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path.
- ◆ Buckle and lock the seat belt or attach the connectors to the lower anchors in the vehicle. Tighten to ensure the car seat does not move more than one-inch when checked at the belt path.
- ◆ Attach and tighten the tether with the seat belt or lower anchor connectors on a forward-facing car seat.