



Selection - Direction

Rear Facing until 2!

- ◆ Secure infants and toddlers in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.
- ◆ Pennsylvania law requires children younger than 2 years of age to always ride in a rear-facing car seat.
- ◆ Select a rear-facing car seat that allows the top of the child's head to be at least one-inch (1") below the top of the back of the car seat.
- ◆ Traveling rear-facing is safer than forward-facing.

Rear-Facing Car Seat Basics



- ◆ When selecting a rear-facing car seat, there are several options:
 - ◆ Evaluate the age, weight, height, physical development, and emotional needs of the child.
 - ◆ Select the car seat that:
 - ◆ Is safe for the child;
 - ◆ Fits the vehicle;
 - ◆ Can be used correctly every trip, every time.



Rear-Facing Only Seat

- ◆ Portable and convenient car seats that accommodate small infants.
 - ◆ The weight range is from 3 - 4 pounds and goes up to 30 - 35 pounds.
- ◆ Many can be used with a base that remains in the vehicle or can be used without the base.
 - ◆ Extra bases can be purchased for use in several cars.

Convertible Car Seat

- ◆ Larger and stays secured in the car and converts from rear-facing to forward-facing.
 - ◆ Rear-facing weight range is from 4 - 5 pounds and up to 40-50 pounds to accommodate rear-facing children longer.
- ◆ Typically a transition car seat between the rear-facing only car seat and a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
 - ◆ Recommended for children who are younger than 2 years of age who have outgrown their rear-facing only car seat.



Location

- ◆ All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.
- ◆ Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side front air bag.
- ◆ Select a seating position that allows for the correct use of the car seat.
- ◆ Use of lower anchors or the seat belt may affect the seating position choice.

Rear-Facing Car Seat Basics



Where Do The Harness Straps Go?

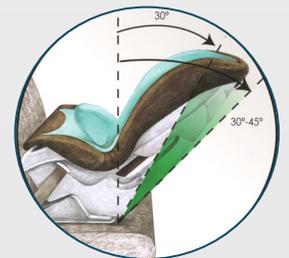


Rear-facing seats

Straps should originate
AT or BELOW
the child's shoulders

Installation

- ◆ Read and follow the car seat manufacturer's instructions for an acceptable rear-facing recline angle.
- ◆ When checking the recline angle, the vehicle must be on level ground.
 - ◆ Use the recline angle adjuster to determine the correct angle.
 - ◆ For car seats that do not have an adjustable base, use a tightly rolled towel or pool noodle placed at the seat bight, if needed to correct the angle, if permitted by the car seat manufacturer.
- ◆ Secure the car seat rear-facing with the vehicle seat belt or lower connectors of the LATCH system.
 - ◆ Place the car seat on the vehicle seat and route the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct belt path following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
 - ◆ Buckle the seat belt or attach the lower connectors to the anchors and tighten.
 - ◆ Pull at the belt path to be certain there is no more than one-inch of side-to-side movement.
- ◆ Check the installation every time the car seat is used.



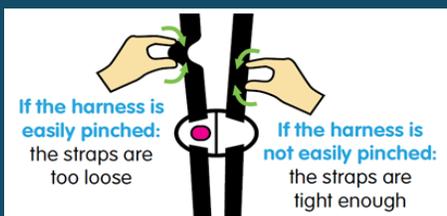
Harness Adjustment and Fit

- ◆ Place the child in the car seat so there is no gap between the car seat and the child's back.
- ◆ Thread the harness through the slots located at or below the child's shoulders following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Secure the child with a snug harness.
- ◆ Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.

How Tight Should the Harness Be?

The harness should pass the 'pinch test'; when pinching the harness webbing vertically at the shoulder with the thumb and forefinger, your fingers should slide off easily and you should not be able to pinch any webbing between them.

The harness should lie flat, and fit snugly (not uncomfortable) at the child's shoulders and hips.



Call 1-800-CAR-BELT with questions or to find a car seat fitting station near you.