

Rear-Facing Car Seat Basics



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.

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.
- ◆ Secure the car seat rear-facing with the vehicle seat belt or lower anchor 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 for rear-facing use following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
 - ◆ Buckle the seat belt or attach the lower anchor connectors to the vehicle anchors and tighten.
 - ◆ Pull at the belt path to be certain there is no more than one-inch of side-to-side or front-to-back movement.



Rear-Facing Only Car Seat

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



Convertible Car Seat

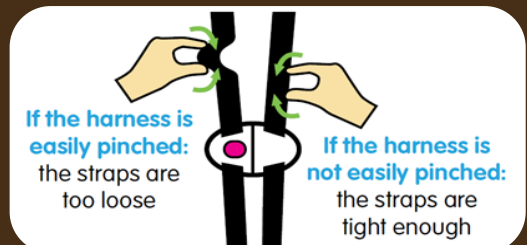
- ◆ Larger and stays secured in the car. Converts from rear-facing to forward-facing.
 - ◆ Rear-facing weight range is from 4 - 5 pounds and up to 40-50 pounds to accommodate rear-facing children longer.
- ◆ Typically a transition car seat between the rear-facing only car seat and a forward-facing car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



How Tight Should the Harness Be?

The car seat harness should pass the "pinch test".

- ◆ Pinch the harness webbing vertically at the shoulder with the thumb and forefinger
- ◆ Your fingers should easily slide off the webbing.
- ◆ The webbing should not fold and pinch between your fingers.
- ◆ The harness should lie flat, and fit snugly (not uncomfortably) at the child's shoulders and hips.



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Child's head is at least one-inch below the top of the car seat shell.

Harness is snug and you cannot pinch any extra webbing between thumb and forefinger.

Chest clip is at armpit level.



Harness straps are threaded through the slots that are at or below the child's shoulders.



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

Tips to Achieve Correct Use of a Rear-Facing Car Seat



Selection

- Confirm the car seat is in good condition, and has not been recalled or reached the car seat manufacturer's expiration date.
- Read the car seat instructions and/or label to make sure the car seat is appropriate for the child's age, weight and height.
- The car seat fits the vehicle and can be used correctly on every trip.



Direction

- Keep the child in a rear-facing car seat until age 2 or until they reach the maximum weight or height of the car seat.
- When the child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, secure the child in a forward-facing car seat.



Location

- Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat when there is an active front passenger-side air bag.
- Secure all children younger than 13 years of age in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.



Harness Adjustment and Fit

- Place the child with their back and bottom against the car seat back. Thread the harness straps through the correct slots **at or below** the child's shoulders following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- Secure the child with a snug harness. A snug harness does not permit excess webbing to be pinched at the shoulder once the harness is buckled and correctly tightened. Be sure to pull extra webbing from the hip area when tightening.
- Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.



Installation

- Place the car seat on the vehicle seat, adjusting the recline angle following the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- Thread and tighten the seat belt or lower anchor connectors through the correct rear-facing belt path.
- Confirm the car seat does NOT move side-to-side or front-to-back more than 1-inch when tested at the belt path.

