

## Rear-Facing



Secure children in a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until the maximum 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. Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active passenger-side front air bag. All children younger than age 13 should ride in a back seat.

### Here's What to Do:

- ◆ Use a rear-facing car seat:
  - In the back seat for as long as possible.
  - Up to the rear-facing weight or height limits, even beyond the age of 2.
- ◆ If your child outgrows their rear-facing car seat before age 2, use a car seat with a higher weight and/or height limit to keep the child rear-facing longer.
- ◆ Leg crowding is expected and does not cause harm as long as the child is within the weight and height limits for the car seat.



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*Traveling rear-facing is safer than forward-facing.*

### Rear-Facing Checklist:

- Child's head is at least one-inch from the top of the shell of the car seat.
- Harness straps are positioned **at or below the shoulder**.
- Harness straps lay flat and fit snugly on the child with the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
- Seat belt or lower anchors in the correct belt path are locked and tight with less than one-inch of side-to-side movement when pulled at the belt path.
- 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.

### Here's Why:

- ◆ The rear-facing car seat absorbs the crash forces.
- ◆ The head, neck, and spine are supported by the shell of the rear-facing car seat reducing harm to the child.
- ◆ Children younger than 2 years are more likely to be injured if they are secured forward-facing.

**Right Seat + Right Time + Right Use = Reducing Car Crash Injury.**