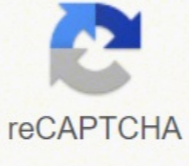




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# Front facing car seat guidelines

## MOST PARENTS DON'T KNOW THEY ARE USING THE WRONG CAR SEAT. DO YOU?

### KNOW THE AGES & STAGES!



- Age is important.** The younger children are, the more fragile they are, and the more protection they need.
- Know the limits!** ALWAYS follow the weight and height limits of the car seat.
- Fits your vehicle.** Not every car seat can be installed correctly in every car, try before you buy.
- Easy for you to use.** Try out the features of the car seat. Choose one that will make it easy for you to use correctly every time.
- Maturity matters.** A booster is designed for children mature enough and big enough to sit still in the proper position for the whole ride.



### CAR SEAT SAFETY

Using the correct car seat or booster seat can be a life-saver. Make sure your child is always buckled in an age and size appropriate car seat or booster seat.



Do not move to SEAT BELT stage until the child fits the adult seat belt properly, typically when 4'9" in height.

**1 OUT OF 4** unintentional injury deaths are caused by motor vehicle crashes for children under 13.

**MORE CRASH DEATHS** Crash deaths occur among children traveling as passenger vehicle occupants and proper restraint can reduce these fatalities.



CHILD SEAT GROUP CHART				
SEAT GROUP	WEIGHT (kg)	WEIGHT (lb)	HEIGHT LIMIT	APPROX AGE
Infant Seat Group 0+	0 - 13kg	0 - 29lb	TOP OF HEAD LEVEL WITH TOP OF SEAT	Newborn to 12/15 months
Child Seat Group 1	9 - 18kg	20 - 40lb	EYES LEVEL WITH TOP OF SEAT	9 months to 4 years*
Booster Seat Group 2,3	15 - 36kg	33 - 80lb	12 years old or 135cm/4'5"	4 to 12 years
COMBINATION GROUPS				
Infant and Child Seat Group 0+1	0 - 18kg	0 - 40lb	EYES LEVEL WITH TOP OF SEAT**	Newborn to 4 years
Extended Rear Facing Seat Group 1,2	9 - 25kg	20 - 55lb	EYES LEVEL WITH TOP OF SEAT	9 months to 6 years
Child and Booster Seat Group 1,2,3	9 - 36kg	20 - 80lb	HARNESSES: When harness straps begin to dip below shoulders on highest setting. SEAT: At 12 years old or 4'5"	9 months to 12 years*

\*Even if your baby can sit unaided for 30 minutes and they weigh 20lb, they are still RFR until sitting rear facing. 9 months is very young to forward face, and it is not as safe as rear facing.  
 \*\*Some 0+1 seats may be outgrown rear facing when top of head is level with top of seat, refer to instruction manual.

When should my child be in a front facing car seat. What are the rules for forward facing car seats. Is there a law on forward facing car seats. How to secure front facing car seat. Front facing car seat guidelines Canada.

In addition to being able to follow these rules, it is recommended that kids be at least 5 years old and weigh at least 40 pounds before riding in a booster. Use the tether strap: Every forward-facing car seat in the U.S. has a tether strap. Use caution with pickup trucks: Children should never be allowed to ride in the cargo area of a pickup truck. However, the majority of kids will outgrow their forward-facing car seat in height before they reach the weight limit. Some car seats and booster seats are easier to use than others. Most state car seat laws have not caught up to the AAP car seat guidelines to help keep kids safe. If, when holding the car seat at the belt path (where the seat belt or LATCH strap passes through), you can move the seat more than 1 inch, then it is not installed tightly enough. Photo Courtesy: Pixabay When you're ready to hit the road, the safety of your children is of the utmost importance. Pediatrics. Specifically, the child must be able to sit without slouching and have their knees bend at the edge of the seat, the lap belt must rest on the lap (not the belly), and the shoulder belt should cross between the neck and shoulder. While there are big differences in prices for car seats, all car seats must meet the same federal safety standards and crash performance standards. Every forward-facing car seat is safer when it is tethered. The American Academy of Pediatrics has a policy statement on child passenger safety with recommendations and guidelines for car seats. In so doing, it greatly reduces the risk of brain and spinal cord injury. These guidelines were most recently updated in November 2018. Note that more than one-third of all U.S. states now have laws requiring children to remain rear-facing until at least age 2. To ride safely in a booster seat, a child must be mature enough to sit properly for the entire ride, without slouching, leaning over, or messing with the seat belt. The height limit is not when the child's feet touch the back of the vehicle seat. The best car seat is one that is used correctly. This strap comes from the top of the child's car seat and connects to a tether anchor in the back of the vehicle. Get road-trip-ready with one of these best car seat picks. Infants and toddlers are at greater risk for head and spinal cord injuries if they are in a forward-facing car seat instead of a rear-facing car seat, which provides better support for their head and neck. Infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat (an infant seat or rear-facing convertible car seat with a harness) for as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the seat's manufacturer. Register your car seat: You will be notified of any car seat recalls if you register your car seat. 2018-142(5) doi:10.1542/peds.2018-2460 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Parents should be aware that the smaller rear seats of 2-door, 3-door, and some 4-door pickups are not as safe as larger back seats found in other cars and trucks. Convertible seats (those that can be either rear- or forward-facing) typically have rear-facing weight limits of at least 40 pounds, with some as high as 50 pounds. Luckily, no matter what the age or size of your child, you'll find a lot of options that fit the bill. The National Highway Transportation Association (NHTSA) provides ease-of-use ratings for car seats. The AAP's car seat product listing is updated yearly and includes weight and height restrictions as well as price ranges. Durbin DR, Hoffman BD. MORE FROM CONSUMERSEARCH.COM 2014, NHTSA Photo Library. The tight back seat increases the chances of the child's head and other body parts hitting the back of the front seat in a crash. In order to follow the latest AAP car seat guidelines, you might also try to find a car seat and/or booster seat with high weight and height limits, so that you don't have to move your child to a new seat before they are ready. But your child doesn't change as they cross state lines. Most kids will need to be close to 5 feet tall and 8 to 12 years old before they can ride safely without a booster. The limits on most convertible seats allow children to ride rear-facing for 2 years or more. One state may allow your 6-year-old to ride without a booster, while a neighboring state says the child needs a booster until age 7 and another state requires one until age 8. When a child outgrows their forward-facing car seat, they should transition to a booster seat (a seat where the child wears the vehicle's seat belt as their restraint). A child can ride safely without a booster seat when their body fits properly on the vehicle seat and the seat belt fits properly on their body without the help of the booster. However, many children reach the height limit before the weight limit for rear-facing. Once they have outgrown their rear-facing car seat (by reaching either the height or weight limit), children should sit in a forward-facing car seat with harness straps as long as possible, and until they reach the weight or height limits of their car seat. Verywell Family uses only high-quality sources, including peer-reviewed studies, to support the facts within our articles. Read our editorial process to learn more about how we fact-check and keep our content accurate, reliable, and trustworthy. Child passenger safety. All kids under 13 years of age should sit in the back seat, using an age-appropriate restraint. Car seat ease-of-use ratings. These recommendations change over the years as new research and information become available. The right car seat will provide a good fit for your kid, be easy for you to use, and have features that make things comfortable for both of you. Avoid common car seat mistakes: In addition to choosing the wrong type of seat for your child's age, common car seat mistakes include not installing the seat tightly enough, having loose harness straps, and turning kids forward-facing too soon (your child's legs will be bent in a rear-facing seat and this is fine). Tight is right: Make sure your car seat is installed tightly. Rather, for most seats the height limit is when the child's head is one inch below the topmost point of the seat. Thanks for your feedback! What are your concerns? Parents should do what is safe for their kids. Keep in mind that many convertible car seats and combination car seats have forward-facing weight limits of 65 to 80 pounds when used with harness straps. Every child will need a convertible rear-facing seat, because they will outgrow their infant seat well before it is safe for them to ride forward-facing. Follow the AAP guidelines, even if they exceed the requirements of the state car seat laws where you live. The forward-facing height limit is when the child's shoulders reach the top shoulder strap slot. The AAP's car seat guidelines include recommendations for car seats, booster seats, and safe use of vehicle seat belts. See what their current guidelines say for keeping children safe in a vehicle. They may have clearer instructions, be easier to install, have better labels, or make it easier to secure your child correctly in the seat. The tether reduces how far forward the child's head moves by at least 4 inches.



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