



▶ Keeping Children Safe

Motor vehicle crashes are
#1 CAUSE OF DEATH
 among children

Child safety seats can
REDUCE FATAL INJURY
 UP TO **71%** for infants
 UP TO **54%** for toddlers

Tips on Using Your Car Seat

Harness Safety

- Straps should lie flat.
- Straps should be placed through the slots below your child's shoulders for a rear-facing seat and at or above your child's shoulders for a forward-facing seat.
- Place the chest clip at armpit level.
- It's snug when you can't pinch any extra strap material at the shoulder.



Rear-Facing Infant Seat

Installation: Make sure your car seat base is installed at the correct recline angle. Babies must ride sitting semi-reclined so their airways remain open. The latch system or the seat belt can be used, but not both.

▶ **RULE**
 Keep infants and toddlers in rear-facing seats until age 2, or until they reach the maximum height and weight listed for their car seat model.

Forward-Facing Car Seat

Installation: Place the seat in the back seat only. Lock the seat belt or lower anchors, and attach the top tether. Each seat may have a different limit for using the anchors and tether, so check your car seat for specifics.

▶ **RULE**
 Once forward-facing, children should be buckled in a five-point harness car seat system until they either reach age 4 or weigh 40 pounds, whichever comes first.

Booster Seat

Belt: Position the lap and shoulder belt on your child—correctly positioning the lap belt across his/her upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the center of his/her chest.

Position: Never put the shoulder belt behind your child's back or under his or her arm.

▶ **RULE**
 Most children will need to ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until they reach 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between 8 and 12 years of age.

Source: safekids.org, safecar.gov

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