Infant Car Seat Safety Guide

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SEAT FOR YOUR BABY

All infants should be positioned in a rear-facing car seat. There are two types of rear-facing car seats: infant seats and convertible car seats. Infant seats are rear-facing only and have lower weight limits, while convertible car seats can convert from rear-facing to forward-facing and allow higher weight limits.



Some babies may require an infant seat to meet the minimum weight requirement, always check the manufacturer's weight limits.

REAR-FACING DURATION

Rear-facing is now recommended as long as possible, until the highest weight or height is reached. Most convertible car seats have weight limits allowing children to rear-face for at least 2 years.

PROPER HARNESS FIT

Harness straps should be placed at or below your baby's shoulders, and the chest clip at armpit-level. The straps should fit snuggly; you should not be able to pinch any slack on the straps over the shoulders. Remove any bulky clothing or puffy jackets prior to buckling.





INSTALLATION TIPS

Ensure that the car seat is installed at the correct angle; all rear-facing seats come with recline indicators. Rear-facing car seats should be installed in the rear seats of the vehicle and should never be placed in a front seat.



CAR SEAT INSPECTION

Find a local Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) or local inspection station to make an appointment for a virtual or in-person car seat check through Safe Kids Worldwide.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

AAP Child Passenger Safety Policy Statement
AAP Car Seat Information for Families
Safe Kids Worldwide Find a Technician
Safe Kids Worldwide Local Inspection Stations