

Car Seat Checklist

Using the right car seat for your child is the best way to reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash. Follow this checklist to help keep your child safe while traveling in a vehicle.



- Always read the manuals for your car seat and vehicle. They both give you details on how to install the seat and the proper angle it should be at. If your seat has a handle, the manual will show the safest position for it while traveling.
- Keep your child rear facing until they outgrow the weight or height limits of their rear facing car seats. Use a convertible seat to keep your child rear-facing longer.
- Never put a rear facing car seat in front of an active airbag. Children riding in the front seat with an airbag are at higher risk of injury or death from the airbag in a crash.
- Remove all bulky clothing and coats before buckling children up for travel. Cover them with blankets or put their coat on backwards to help keep them warm after buckling. Make sure the child's face is not covered to help prevent suffocation.
- Check to be sure that you are using the correct harness slots. Secure the harness at or just below shoulders for rear facing and at or just above shoulders for forward facing.
- Make sure the car seat chest clip is at child's armpit level and fastened correctly.
- If not using the LATCH straps, be sure to secure them in the proper place on the car seat.
- Make sure you are using the correct seat belt or LATCH belt path for either rear facing or forward-facing direction of travel.
- Children that have reached the maximum height or weight guidelines for their forward-facing seat should use a booster seat until the vehicle belt fits properly. This usually happens when they are 4 feet 9 inches tall and are 10-12 years old.
- All children 13 years old or younger should ride in the back seat until their bones are strong enough to handle the crash force from an airbag.
- Never add anything to the car seat that did not come with the seat. The seat was crash tested the way it comes from the manufacturer. Adding after-market items like toys or extra cushioning may result in injury or death in the event of a crash.
- Use a car seat only for vehicle travel. If the car seat is removed from the vehicle, then remove the child from the seat. Do not leave a child unattended in a vehicle or car seat for any reason.

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