Right Seat. Right Use. Right Time.



Keep Children Rear-Facing up to Age 4 in a Seat That Fits Their Height and Weight

- Start your child in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat.
- Experts recommend keeping children rear-facing up to age 4.
- If your child outgrows their carseat before age 4, change to a seat with higher rear-facing weight and height limits.
- Leg crowding is expected and does not harm the child.



- A rear-facing car seat cradles your child and absorbs crash forces, reducing harm to neck and spine.
- Small children are more vulnerable and likely to be injured if forward facing.



Keep Children in Car Seats with Harnesses Until at Least Age 5

- When your child outgrows the rear-facing seat, use a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether in the back seat.
- Use a car seat with a harness and tether until at least age 5, or until they reach the upper height and weight limits for the harness.



- Harnesses spread crash forces over strong parts of the body, keeping the child's body properly positioned in a crash.
- The tether limits head injuries by reducing car seat movement in a crash.



Keep Children in Booster Seats Until the Seat Belt Fits and Until 4'9"

- When your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with harness, use a booster seat in the back seat.
- Use a booster seat until the belt fits correctly (see next step).
- A booster seat is needed until 4 ft 9 in (57") tall and the belt fits properly. Your child may be 12 years old before ready for an adult safetybelt.



- A booster raises a child up so the belt rests over strong parts of the body.
- Decreases stomach, neck, and spine injuries.



- Children should use a belt in the back seat once they pass the Fit Test:
 - 1. The shoulder strap crosses the center of the chest and rests on the shoulder (not the neck)
 - 2. The lap belt fits low on the hips, touching the upper thighs (not the stomach).
 - 3. Knees can bend when sitting all the way back in the seat, and feet are flat on the floor.
- Use the back seat for kids under 13.



- A seat belt keeps the child inside the vehicle in a crash.
- Spreads crash forces.
- Protects head and spine.
- Back seat is safer than the front.







