

Selecting the Appropriate Safety Seat for Your Child

1. Keep your baby facing the rear of the car as long as possible, **at least** until one year of age.
2. Keep your child in a safety seat with a harness as long as possible, **at least** until 3-4 years of age.
3. Keep your older child in a booster seat until he fits properly in the lap and shoulder belts in the car.
Most children need to ride in boosters from about age 3-4 until **at least** 8 years of age.

Type of Seat	Child's Age	Child's Weight (check mfr. instr.)	Child's Height	Comments
Infant-only (must face rear of car)	Birth to about 6-9 months	Birth to 20-22 lbs.	Child's head must be at least one inch below top edge of seat	Designed for use in and out of car; smaller and lighter than a convertible seat; most models have detachable base that stays in car
Convertible (may be used rear facing or forward facing)	Birth to about 3-4 years	Most models may be used birth to 40 lbs. choose one certified for rear facing use up to at least 30 lbs.	Rear facing: Child's head should not extend beyond top edge of seat. Forward facing: shoulders must be at or below top strap slots	5-point harness without shield preferred; use rear facing as long as possible (until at least age one)
Forward facing only with harness	Age one to 4 years or more	Most models fit 20 to 40 lbs.; some models for larger children	Shoulders must be at or below top strap slots	May be used after baby outgrows infant-only seat only if baby is at least 1 yr.
Combination (forward facing only; harness is removable)	Age one to 8 years or more	20-30 lbs. up to 40-50 lbs. with harness; 30-40 lbs. up to 80 lbs. with lap and shoulder belt in car (weight limits vary; check instructions)	Remove harness if child's shoulders are above top strap slots; when used as booster, child's head must be supported up to top of ears	Useful for tall, thin child over 40 lbs. whose shoulders are above top slots of convertible seat; when used as booster, make sure lap belt is not positioned too high
Belt-positioning booster (no harness included)	3-4 years to 8 years or more	30-40 lbs. up to 80-100 lbs. (weight limits vary; check instructions)	Child's head must be supported up to top of ears; if vehicle seatback is low, use booster with backrest	Must be used with lap and shoulder belt; recommend booster with adjustable, removable backrest or with no back
Booster with removable shield (no harness included)	3-4 years to 8 years or more	Certified for 30-40 lbs. with shield, but safety seat w/ harness is recommended for children under 40 lbs.; certified without shield for 40-80 lbs.	Child's head must be supported by vehicle seatback up to top of ears	Recommend remove shield and use with vehicle lap and shoulder belt
Special products	Birth to adult	Birth to 160 lbs.	Various	Car beds, harnesses, large seats for children with special needs

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