



**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**  
 Our Mission: Save lives, prevent injuries, reduce vehicle-related crashes



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**General Child Seat Use Information**

<b>General Child Seat Use Information</b> <b>Buckle Everyone. Children Age 12 and Under in Back!</b>			
	AGE / WEIGHT	SEAT TYPE / SEAT POSITION	USAGE TIPS
INFANTS	Birth to at least 1 year and at least 20 pounds.	Infant-Only Seat/rear-facing or Convertible Seat/used rear-facing.  <i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Never use in a front seat where an air bag is present.</li> <li>▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing the rear.</li> <li>▪ Child seat should recline at approximately a 45 degree angle.</li> <li>▪ Harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level (lower set of slots for most convertible child safety seats).</li> <li>▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.</li> </ul>
	Less than 1 year/ 20-35 lbs.	Convertible Seat/used rear-facing (select one recommended for heavier infants).  <i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Never use in a front seat where an air bag is present.</li> <li>▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing the rear.</li> <li>▪ Child seat should recline at approximately a 45 degree angle.</li> <li>▪ Harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level (lower set of slots for most convertible child safety seats).</li> <li>▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.</li> </ul>
PRESCHOOLERS / TODDLER	1 to 4 years/ at least 20 lbs. to approximately 40 lbs.	Convertible Seat/forward-facing or Forward-Facing Only or High Back Booster/Harness.  <i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing forward.</li> <li>▪ Harness straps/slots at or above child's shoulders (usually top set of slots for convertible child safety seats).</li> <li>▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.</li> </ul>
YOUNG CHILDREN	4 to at least 8 years/unless they are 4'9" (57") tall.	Belt-Positioning Booster (no back, only) or High Back Belt-Positioning Booster.  <i>NEVER use with lap-only belts —belt-positioning boosters are always used with lap AND shoulder belts.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Booster used with adult lap and shoulder belt in rear seat.</li> <li>▪ Shoulder belt should rest snugly across chest, rests on shoulder; and should NEVER be placed under the arm or behind the back.</li> <li>▪ Lap-belt should rest low, across the lap/upper thigh area—not across the stomach.</li> </ul>