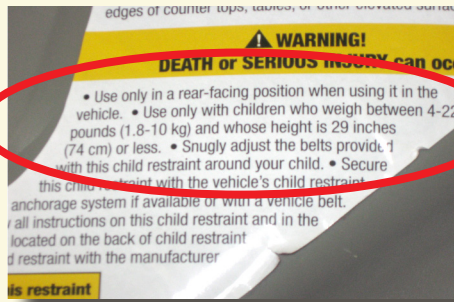




Car Seat Shopping Tips

What to look for in a well fitting seat.

*Read weight and height labels on seat. Many infants leave the hospital before they reach 5 lbs, so a car seat starting at birth or 4 lbs is needed.

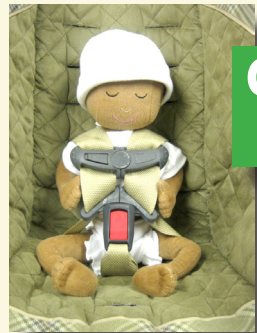


* The car seat should have at least 3 to 4 sets of harness slots in order to adjust to fit a smaller infant. Harness straps must be positioned at or below infant's shoulders.



Poor Fit

Straps too high
Crotch strap away from body

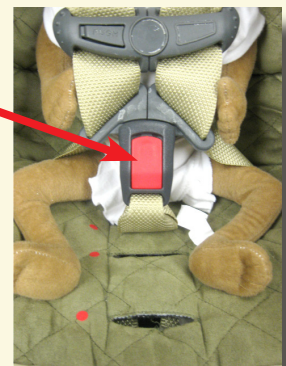


Great Fit

*Adjustable crotch strap that can be moved as the baby grows. The strap between the legs must have good body contact with the infant to prevent slouching.

*Harness straps should be snug on infant. On some seats, straps cannot be pulled snug enough without sagging on infant's body.

* Beware of used car seats as they may have hidden safety problems. Make sure you have the instructions and any recalls have been fixed. Make sure it has not been in a crash. Check for an expiration date on the seat, if none avoid seats older than 6 years. Make sure no parts are missing, harness straps are not frayed and plastic shell is not cracked.



To have any questions answered or to find out if you have the right car seat for your infant; please contact the Avera McKennan Car Seat Program at 322-3485.