

# GENERAL CAR SEAT USE INFORMATION

**BUCKLE EVERYONE—CHILDREN AGE 12 AND UNDER IN BACK!**

	AGE/WEIGHT	SEAT TYPE/ SEAT POSITION	USAGE TIPS
INFANTS	Keep rear-facing from birth to 1 year old/at least 20 lbs.	<p>Infant-only seat/rear-facing or convertible seat rear-facing.</p> <p><b><i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the seat belt or by the LATCH system.</i></b></p> <p>Use rear-facing convertible longer as they are available for children up to 30-35 lbs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never use in front seat where an air bag is present.</li> <li>• Tightly install child seat, facing the rear. No more than one inch of movement at belt path.</li> <li>• Recline according to manufacturer’s instructions; look for recline indicator on seat.</li> <li>• Harness straps at or just below shoulder level (lower set of slots for most convertible child safety seats).</li> <li>• Harness straps snug on child so you can’t pinch extra webbing at the shoulder; harness clip at armpit level.</li> <li>• Do not add blankets or bunting behind child or under harness straps.</li> <li>• Carry handle in correct position as specified by manufacturer.</li> </ul>
	Less than 1 year / 5-40 lbs.	<p>Convertible seat/rear-facing (select one with higher weight limits, 30-35 lbs, rear-facing).</p> <p><b><i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the seat belt or by the LATCH system.</i></b></p>	<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. No more than one inch of movement at belt path.</li> <li>• Recline according to manufacturer’s instructions.</li> <li>• Harness straps at or just below shoulder level.</li> <li>• Harness straps snug on child; so you can’t pinch extra webbing at the shoudler; harness clip at armpit level.</li> <li>• Keep child rear-facing until reaching upper weight limits of the seat or until the baby’s head is 1 inch from the top of the shell.</li> </ul>

women’s center information

	AGE/WEIGHT	SEAT TYPE/ SEAT POSITION	USAGE TIPS
PRESCHOOLERS / TODDLERS	1 to 4 years/at least 20 lbs. to approximately 40 lbs.	Convertible seat/ forward-facing or forward-facing only seat or high-back booster with harness straps.  <b><i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the seat belt or by the LATCH system.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing forward; no more than one inch movement at belt path</li> <li>• Harness straps at or above shoulder level (usually top set of slots for convertible child safety seats).</li> <li>• Harness straps snug on child; so you can't pinch extra webbing at the shoulder, harness clip at armpit level.</li> </ul>
YOUNG CHILDREN	4 to at least 8 to 10 years/unless they are 4'9" (57") tall.	Belt-positioning booster (no back or high back).  <b><i>NEVER use with lap only belts - belt positioning boosters are always used with lap AND shoulder belts.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoulder belt should rest snugly across chest, rest 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> <li>• Booster used with adult lap and shoulder belt in rear seat.</li> </ul>
OLDER CHILDREN		Seatbelt	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5 Step Test</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?</li> <li>2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?</li> <li>3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?</li> <li>4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?</li> <li>5. Can the child stay seated like this the whole trip?</li> </ol> <p>If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat.</p>

### GENERAL REMINDERS:

- Always check your car seat's instruction manual for specific installation, usage and weight guidelines.
- To install your seat, use your vehicle's seat belt or latch system.
- Be sure to install tightly—the car seat should move no more than one inch from side to side and front to back along the seat belt path.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT OR VISIT:

- Avera McKennan car seat program, (605) 322-3485
- American Academy of Pediatrics website, "Car Safety Seats: A guide for families 2008," [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)
- To find a child passenger safety technician in your area, search at [www.safekids.org/certification](http://www.safekids.org/certification) under "Find a Technician/Instructor".