

Car seat safety for preemies

Choosing a car seat

- Choose the right car seat for your infant's height and weight.
- A rear-facing-only car seat may fit a premature infant better than a convertible car seat.
- A doctor may recommend or require that your infant rides in a car bed.
- Always follow the car seat instruction manual and the vehicle owner's manual.

Look for these features

- A rear-facing-only car seat with a weight limit starting at 3 or 4 pounds.
- Shoulder straps that can be moved low enough. They should sit at or below your infant's shoulders.
- A car seat that comes with padding to be used for smaller infants. Rolled blankets can be used instead of padding. Place them along the sides of the infant.
- An easy-to-read indicator that allows your infant to be secured at the correct angle.

Resources

childrenswi.org/carseats
safetycenter@childrenswi.org



The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a car seat test for all infants born before 37 weeks gestation. The car seat test makes sure that premature infants are able to sit in a car seat safely.

If your infant has trouble riding in a rear-facing car seat, a doctor may recommend or require a car bed, and the doctor will tell you when your infant can transition to a rear-facing car seat.