

Forward-facing car seats



It is best to keep kids forward facing in a car seat with a harness as long as they are within the weight and height limits for the car seat. The harness in a forward-facing seat protects the child by contacting the strongest parts of the body and spreading crash forces over a wide area.

Proper fit is key to safety



Top of the child's ears are below the top of the car seat

Harness straps are at or above the shoulders and should be snug

Chest clip is at armpit level

Buckle is in front of the child with no gaps

Use forward-facing car seats correctly:

- Always check the car seat and vehicle owner's manual for the correct way to use and install.
- Follow all weight and height guidelines for the car seat. If your child has outgrown the seat, you may want to get a car seat that lets them stay in a forward-facing car seat longer.
- Once installed, the seat should move no more than one inch from side to side or front to back at the belt path.
- Do not use car seats that are old, expired or have been in a crash.

What comes next? 

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Kids can move into a booster seat when:

They are at least four years of age and 40 pounds, and they have outgrown the weight and height limits of the forward-facing harness car seat. They also need to be mature enough to sit correctly in the booster seat for the entire ride. If these are not met, look for a new forward-facing car seat that goes to higher weights and heights to keep your child harnessed longer.

Booster seats



Booster seats are an important step between the time when a child has outgrown a harness seat and is ready to sit using a seat belt only. They raise the child so the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fits over the strongest parts of the child's body.

Parenting tips for car seats:

- Riding in the back seat and in a car seat is required by law.
- Always using a car seat correctly makes a safe habit for children.
- Pull over if a child gets upset. It might be time for everyone to take a break.
- Praise kids when they are sitting in the car seat and belted correctly.
- Wear your seat belt. Children are more likely to buckle up if they see a parent or caregiver buckled up.
- Let others who drive your kids know that a car seat is a must.