

# CAR SEAT

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN



CHILDREN NEED TO CONTINUE IN EACH STAGE UNTIL THEY REACH THE TOP HEIGHT OR WEIGHT LIMIT ALLOWED FOR THAT STAGE



### REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

A CHILD UNDER AGE 1 SHOULD ALWAYS RIDE IN A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT.

Rear-facing car seats have a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord while allowing the back of the seat to absorb the crash forces.

- Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing.
- Convertible and All-in-One car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.



Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep them safe. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag. Your child should remain in a rear-facing seat until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.



### FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Forward-facing car seats have a harness and tether to position your child and limit forward movement during a crash.

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with harness and tether until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.



### BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a booster seat until they are big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. Booster seats raise your child up so the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fits properly over the strongest part of the body. Keep your child in a booster seat until they are big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat.



### SEAT BELT

A child must be tall enough to sit straight with their back against the vehicle seat, knees over the edge of the seat, and feet flat on the floor. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat until they turn 13 years old.

Read your car seat labels and instruction manual for height, weight and age specifications along with proper use and installation. Refer to your vehicle owner's manual for additional guidelines.

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/people/cps-events.shtml>



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