

Car Safety Seats: A Guide for Families 2009 American Academy of Pediatrics

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One of the most important jobs you have as a parent is keeping your child safe when riding in a vehicle. Each year thousands of young children are killed or injured in car crashes. Proper use of car safety seats helps keep children safe. But with so many different car safety seats on the market, it's no wonder many parents find this overwhelming.

The type of seat your child needs depends on several things including your child's size and the type of vehicle you have. To be sure your child is using the most appropriate seat, read on. (Read the entire article)

Types of car safety seats at a glance

The chart below is a quick guide on where to start your search. However, it's important to read more about the features and how to use your car safety seat.

Age	Type of Seat	General Guideline
Infants	Infant seats and rear-facing convertible seats	All infants should <i>always</i> ride rear-facing until they are at least 1 year of age <i>and</i> weigh at least 20 pounds.
Toddlers/Preschoolers	Convertible seats	It is best to ride rear-facing as long as possible. Children 1 year of age <i>and</i> at least 20 pounds can ride forward-facing.
School-aged children	Booster seats	Booster seats are for older children who have outgrown their forward-facing car safety seats. Children should stay in a booster seat until adult belts fit correctly (usually when a child reaches about 4' 9" in height and is between 8 and 12 years of age).
Older children	Seat belts	Children who have outgrown their booster seats should ride in a lap and shoulder belt in the back seat until 13 years of age.

The right car safety seat

Infants—rear-facing

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that all infants should ride rear-facing starting with their first ride home from the hospital. They should remain rear-facing until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer. At a minimum, children should ride rear-facing until they have reached at least 1 year of age *and* weigh at least 20 pounds.

There are 2 types of rear-facing car safety seats: infant-only seats and convertible seats.

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Infant-only seats

- Are small and have carrying handles (and sometimes come as part of a stroller system).
- Are used only for travel (not for positioning outside the vehicle).
- Are used for infants up to 22 to 32 pounds, depending on the model.
- Many come with a base that can be left in the car. The seat clicks into and out of the base so you don't have to install the base each time you use it. Parents can buy more than one base for additional vehicles.

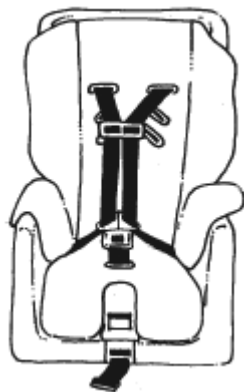


Infant-only car safety seat

Convertible seats (used rear-facing)

- Can be used rear-facing, then "converted" to forward-facing for older children. This means the seat can be used longer by your child. They are bulkier than infant seats, however, and do not come with carrying handles or a separate base.
- Have higher rear-facing weight and height limits than infant-only seats, which makes them ideal for bigger babies.
- Have 2 types of harnesses:

5-point harness— attach at the shoulders, at the hips, and between the legs



Overhead shield— a padded tray-like shield that swings down over the child



Installation tips for rear-facing seats

When using a rear-facing seat, keep the following in mind:

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- Make sure the car safety seat is installed tightly in the vehicle and that the harness fits the child snugly.
- *Never* place a rear-facing car safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle that has an active front passenger air bag. If the air bag inflates, it will hit the back of the car safety seat, right where your baby's head is, and could cause serious injury or death.
- If your rear-facing seat has more than one set of harness slots, make sure the harnesses are in the slots at or below your baby's shoulders.
- Be sure you know what kind of seat belts your vehicle has. Some seat belts need locking clips. Locking clips come with all new car safety seats. If you're not sure, check the owner's manual that came with your vehicle. Locking clips are not needed in most newer vehicles.
- If you are using a convertible seat in the rear-facing position, make sure the seat belt is routed through the correct belt path. Check the instructions that came with the car safety seat to be sure.
- If your vehicle was made after 2002, it may come with the LATCH system, which is used to secure car safety seats. See below for information on using LATCH.
- Make sure the seat is at the correct angle so your infant's head does not flop forward. Many seats have angle indicators or adjusters that can help prevent this. If your seat does not have an angle adjuster, tilt the car safety seat back by putting a rolled towel or other firm padding (such as a pool noodle) under the base near the point where the back and bottom of the vehicle seat meet.
- Be sure the car safety seat is installed tightly. If you can move the seat more than an inch side to side or front to back, it's not tight enough.
- Still having trouble? There may be a certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician in your area who can help. If you need installation help, see below for information on how to locate a CPS Technician.

Common questions

Q: What if my baby weighs more than 20 pounds but is not yet 1 year old ?

A: Use a seat that can be used rear-facing by children who weigh more than 20 pounds and keep your baby rear-facing as long as possible into the second year of life, or at least until he has reached his first birthday.

Q: What do I do if my baby slouches down or to the side in his car safety seat?

A: Pad *around* your child (never *under* or *behind*) with rolled-up cloth diapers or blankets. Do not use any sort of car safety seat insert unless it came with the seat or was made by the manufacturer of the seat.

Q: Can I adjust the straps when my baby is wearing thicker clothing, like in the winter?

A: Yes, but make sure the harnesses are still snug. Also remember to tighten the straps again after the thicker clothes are no longer needed. Dress your baby in thinner layers

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instead of a bulky coat or snowsuit, and tuck a blanket around your baby over the buckled harness straps if needed.

Q: Are rear-facing convertible seats OK to use for preemies?

A: Premature infants should be tested while still in the hospital to make sure they can ride safely in a reclined position. Babies who need to lie flat during travel should ride in a crash-tested car bed. Very small infants who can ride safely in a reclined position usually fit better in infant-only seats; however, if you need to use a convertible seat, choose one without a tray-shield harness. The shields often are too big and too far from the body to fit correctly.

Toddlers and preschoolers—forward-facing

Once your child has reached the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the seat for rear-facing, she can ride forward-facing in a convertible seat. However, it is best for her to ride rear-facing to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of her car safety seat. She should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness until she outgrows it (usually at around 4 years of age and about 40–65 pounds).

There are 5 types of car safety seats that can be used forward-facing.

- **Convertible seats**—seats that “convert” from rear-facing to forward-facing seats.
- **Forward-facing toddler seats**—these seats can be used forward-facing with a harness for children who weigh up to 40 to 80 pounds (depending on the model).
- **Combination forward-facing/booster seats**—these seats can be used forward-facing with a harness for children who weigh up to 40 to 65 pounds (depending on the model) or without the harness as a booster (up to 80 to 120 pounds).
- **Built-in seats**—some vehicles come with forward-facing seats built in. Weight and height limits vary. Read your vehicle owner’s manual or contact the manufacturer for details about how to use these seats.
- **Travel vests**—these can be worn by children between 20 and 168 pounds and can be an alternative to traditional forward-facing seats. They are also useful for when a vehicle has lap-only seat belts in the rear.

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Installation tips for forward-facing seats

Make sure the car safety seat is installed tightly in the vehicle and that the harness fits the child snugly.

To switch a convertible seat from rear-facing to forward-facing,

- Move the shoulder straps to the slots that are at or above your child's shoulders. On some convertible seats, the top harness slots must be used when facing forward. Check the instructions that came with the seat to be sure.
- You may have to adjust the recline angle of the seat. Check the instructions to be sure.
- Make sure the seat belt runs through the forward-facing belt path. When making these changes, always follow the car safety seat instructions.
- If your vehicle was made after 2002, it should come with the LATCH system, which is used to secure car safety seats. See below for information on using LATCH.



Forward-facing car safety seat

A **tether** is a strap that attaches to the top of a car safety seat and to an anchor point in your vehicle (see your vehicle owner's manual to find where the tether anchors are in your vehicle). Tethers give important extra protection by keeping the car safety seat and the child's head from moving too far forward in a crash or sudden stop. All new cars, minivans, and light trucks have been required to have tether anchors since September 2000. New forward-facing car safety seats come with tethers. For older seats, or if your tether is missing, tether kits are available. Check with the car safety seat manufacturer to find out how you can get a tether if your seat does not have one.

Common questions

Q: What if I drive more children than can be buckled safely in the back seat?

A: It's best to avoid this, especially if your vehicle has air bags in the front seat. All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat. If absolutely necessary, a child in a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness may be the best choice to ride in front. Just be sure the vehicle seat is moved as far back away from the dashboard (and the air bag) as possible.

Q: What do I need to know if my child will be driven by someone else, such as for child care or school?

A: If your child is being driven by someone else, make sure

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- The car safety seat your child will be using is appropriate for the vehicle used for transport.
- The car safety seat being used is appropriate for the age and size of your child.
- The person in charge of transporting your child knows how to install and use the car safety seat correctly.

Child care programs and schools should have written guidelines for transporting children. These guidelines should include the following:

- All drivers must have a valid driver's license. In some states, school bus drivers need to have a special type of license.
- Staff-to-child ratios for transport should meet or exceed those required for the classroom.
- Every child should be supervised during transport, either by school staff or a parent volunteer, so the driver can focus on driving.
- School staff, teachers, and drivers should know what to do in an emergency, know how to properly use car safety seats and seat belts, and be aware of other safety requirements.
- For more information on written transportation guidelines for schools and child care programs, visit www.healthykids.us/chapters/transportation_main.htm and www.healthychildcare.org.

Q: Should my child ride in a car safety seat on an airplane?

A: Most infant, convertible, and forward-facing seats can be used on airplanes, but booster seats and travel vests cannot. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the AAP recommend that when flying, children should be securely fastened in certified child restraints until 4 years of age, and then should be secured with the airplane seat belts. This will help keep them safe during takeoff and landing or in case of turbulence. Check the label on your car safety seat or call the car safety seat manufacturer before you travel to see if your seat is certified for use on an airplane. You can also consider using a restraint made only for use on airplanes and approved by the FAA.

School-aged children—booster seats

Booster seats are for older children who have outgrown their forward-facing car safety seats. It is best for children to ride in a harnessed seat as long as possible, at least to 4 years of age. If your child outgrows his seat before reaching 4 years of age, consider using a seat with a harness approved for higher weights and heights. A child has outgrown his forward-facing seat when any one of the following is true:

- He reaches the top weight or height allowed for his seat with a harness. (These limits are listed on the seat and also included in the instruction booklet.)
- His shoulders are above the top harness slots.

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- His ears have reached the top of the seat.

Booster seats are designed to raise the child up so that the lap and shoulder seat belts fit properly. High-back and backless booster seats are available. They do not come with harness straps but are used with the lap and shoulder seat belts in your vehicle, the same way an adult rides. Booster seats should be used until your child can correctly fit in lap and shoulder seat belts. Booster seats typically include a plastic clip or guide to help ensure the correct use of the vehicle lap and shoulder belts. See the instruction booklet that came with the booster seat for directions on how to use the guide or clip.



Belt-positioning booster seat

Installation tips for booster seats

Booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt (never a lap-only belt). When using a booster seat, make sure

- The lap belt lies low and snug across your child's upper thighs.
- The shoulder belt crosses the middle of your child's chest and shoulder.

Common questions

Q: What if my car only has lap belts in the back seat?

A: Lap belts work fine with infant-only, convertible, and forward-facing seats. They cannot be used with booster seats. If your car only has lap belts, use a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness and higher weight limits. Other options are

- Check to see if shoulder belts can be installed in your vehicle.
- Use a travel vest (some can be used with lap belts).
- Consider buying another car with lap and shoulder belts in the back seat.

Q: Is there a difference between high-back and backless boosters?

A: Both types of boosters are designed to raise your child so the seat belts fit properly. High-back boosters are useful in vehicles that do not have head rests or have low seat backs. Many seats that look like high-back boosters are actually combination seats. They come with harnesses that can be used for smaller children and can then be removed for older children. Backless boosters are usually less expensive and are easier

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to move from vehicle to vehicle. Backless boosters can be safely used in vehicles with headrests and high seat backs.

Older children—seat belts

Seat belts are made for adults. Your child should stay in a booster seat until adult seat belts fit correctly (usually when the child reaches about 4' 9" in height and is between 8 and 12 years of age). This means

- The shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not the neck or throat.
- The lap belt is low and snug across the upper thighs, not the belly.
- Your child is tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with her knees bent without slouching and can stay in this position comfortably throughout the trip.

Other points to keep in mind when using seat belts include

- Make sure your child does not tuck the shoulder belt under her arm or behind her back. This leaves the upper body unprotected, putting your child at risk of severe injury in a crash or with sudden braking.
- Never allow anyone to “share” seat belts. All passengers must have their own car safety seats or seat belts.

Common Questions

Q: I’ve seen products that say they can help make the seat belt fit better. Should we get one of these?

A: No, these products should not be used. In fact, they may actually interfere with proper seat belt fit by causing the lap belt to ride too high on the stomach and making the shoulder belt too loose. They can even damage the seat belt. This rule applies to car safety seats too; do not use any extra products unless they came with the seat. There are no federal safety standards for these products and until there are, the AAP does not recommend they be used. As long as children are riding in the correct restraint for their size and age, they should not need to use any additional devices.

Shopping for car safety seats

When shopping for a car safety seat, keep the following tips in mind:

- **No one seat is the “best” or “safest.”** The best seat is the one that fits your child’s age and size, is correctly installed, fits well in your vehicle, and can be used properly every time you drive.

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- **Don't decide by price alone.** A higher price does not mean the seat is safer or easier to use.
- **Avoid used seats if you don't know the seat's history.** Never use a car seat that
 - **Is too old.** Look on the label for the date it was made. Check with the manufacturer to find out how long it recommends using the seat.
 - **Has any visible cracks on it.**
 - **Does not have a label with the date of manufacture and model number.** Without these, you cannot check to see if the seat has been recalled.
 - **Does not come with instructions.** You need them to know how to use the seat.
 - **Is missing parts.** Used car safety seats often come without important parts. Check with the manufacturer to make sure you can get the right parts.
 - **Was recalled.** You can find out by calling the manufacturer or by contacting the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Vehicle Safety Hotline** at 888/327-4236. You can also visit the NHTSA Web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/childseat.cfm.
- **Do not use seats that have been in a moderate or severe crash.** Seats that were in a minor crash may still be safe to use. The NHTSA considers a crash minor if all of the following are true:
 - The vehicle could be driven away from the crash.
 - The vehicle door closest to the car safety seat was not damaged.
 - No one in the vehicle was injured.
 - The air bags did not go off.
 - You can't see any damage to the car safety seat.

If you are unsure, call the manufacturer of the seat. See "Manufacturer phone numbers and Web sites" below for manufacturer contact information.

Installing car safety seats correctly

What you should know about air bags

All new cars come with front air bags. When used with seat belts, air bags work very well to protect teenagers and adults. However, air bags can be very dangerous to children, particularly those riding in rear-facing car safety seats and to child passengers who are not properly positioned. If your vehicle has a front passenger air bag, infants in rear-facing seats *must ride in the back seat*. Even in a relatively low-speed crash, the air bag can inflate, strike the car safety seat, and cause serious brain and neck injury and death.

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Vehicles with no back seat or a back seat that is not made for passengers are not the best choice for traveling with small children. However, the air bag can be turned off in some of these vehicles if the front seat is needed for a child passenger. See your vehicle owner's manual for more information.

Side air bags

Side air bags improve safety for adults in side-impact crashes. Read your vehicle owner's manual for more information about the air bags in your vehicle. Read your car safety seat manual for guidance on placing the seat next to a side air bag.

LATCH

LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) is an attachment system that improves safety by eliminating the need to use seat belts to secure the car safety seat. Vehicles with the LATCH system have anchors located in the back seat. Car safety seats that come with LATCH have attachments that fasten to these anchors. Nearly all passenger vehicles and all car safety seats made on or after September 1, 2002, come with LATCH. However, unless both your vehicle *and* the car safety seat have this anchor system, you will still need to use seat belts to install the car safety seat.

If you need installation help

If you have questions or need help installing your car safety seat, find a certified CPS Technician. Lists of certified CPS Technicians and Child Seat Fitting Stations are available on the NHTSA Web site at www.nhtsa.gov or at www.seatcheck.org. You can also get this information by calling 866/SEATCHECK (866/732-8243) or the NHTSA Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888/327-4236.

Important reminders

1. **Be a good role model.** Make sure you always wear your seat belt. This will help your child form a lifelong habit of buckling up.
2. **Never leave your child alone in or around cars.** Any of the following can happen when a child is left alone in or around a vehicle:
 - Temperatures can reach deadly levels in minutes, and the child can die of heat stroke.
 - He can be strangled by power windows, sunroofs, or accessories.
 - He can knock the vehicle into gear, setting it in motion.
 - He can be backed over when the vehicle backs up.
 - He can become trapped in the trunk of the vehicle.
3. **Always read and follow manufacturer's instructions.** If you do not have the manufacturer's instructions for your car safety seat, write or call the company's customer service department. They will ask you for the model number, name of

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seat, and date of manufacture. The manufacturer's address and phone number are on the label on the seat. Also be sure to follow the instructions in your vehicle owner's manual about using car safety seats.

All products listed below meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 as of the date of publication. There may be car safety seats available that are not listed in this publication. The following information is current as of the date of publication. Before buying a car safety seat, check the manufacturer's instructions for important safety information about proper fitting and use.

The NHTSA has put together an Ease of Use Ratings system to educate parents and caregivers about car safety seat features and to assist them in finding the appropriate seat for their needs. You can view this list at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CPS/CSSRating/Index.cfm.

Manufacturers' names are **boldfaced**.

Infant-only seats				
Name	Harness Type	Rear-Facing Weight Limits	Height Limits	Price
Baby Trend EZ-Loc, Flex-Loc, Latch-Loc Adjustable Back	5-point	5-22 pounds	28.5"	\$79.99- \$129.99
Chicco KeyFit Infant Car Seat	5-point	4-22 pounds	30"	\$160-\$170
Chicco KeyFit 30 Infant Car Seat	5-point	4-30 pounds	30"	\$170-\$180
Combi Centre ST/DX/EX	5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$110-\$130
Combi Connection	5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$159.99
Combi Shuttle	5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$125-\$150
Compass Baby Infant Car Seat	5-point	4-22 pounds	30"	\$120-\$140
Eddie Bauer Deluxe Infant Car Seat	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"-29"	\$100
Eddie Bauer Sure Fit	5-point	4-22 pounds	Up to 29"	\$120-\$130
Eddie Bauer Sure Fit 30	5-point	4-30 pounds	Up to 32"	\$130-\$140
Evenflo Discovery 5	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"-29"	\$50-\$60
Evenflo Embrace	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"-29"	\$60-\$90
Evenflo First Choice 5	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"-29"	\$40
The First Years Via Infant Car Seat	5-point	4-22 pounds	Up to 30"	\$129.99

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Graco SnugRide	5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$80-\$120
Graco SnugRide 32	5-point	5-32 pounds	32"	\$140-\$160
Maxi-Cosi Mico Infant Car Seat	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"-29"	\$170
Mia Moda Viva, Viva Supreme Infant Car Seat	5-point	22 pounds	29"	\$99-\$139
Orbit Infant Car Seat	5-point	22 pounds	29"	\$900
Peg Perego Primo Viaggio SIP 30/30	5-point	30 pounds	30"	\$299-\$349
Safety 1st Designer	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"-29"	\$65-\$80
Safety 1st OnBoard	5-point	4-22 pounds	19"-29"	\$120
Safety 1st OnBoard 30	5-point	4-30 pounds	Up to 32"	\$120-\$130

Convertible seats

Name	Harness Type	Rear-Facing Weight Limits, Height Limits	Forward-Facing Weight Limits, Height Limits	Price
Britax Boulevard, Boulevard CS	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-65 pounds, up to 49"	\$309.99-\$329.99
Britax Decathlon	5-point	5-33 pounds	20-65 pounds, up to 49"	\$294.99
Britax Diplomat	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-40 pounds, up to 40"	\$259.99
Britax Marathon	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-65 pounds, up to 49"	\$279.99
Britax Roundabout	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-40 pounds, up to 40"	\$229.99
Combi Coccoro	5-point	5-33 pounds	20-40 pounds	\$200
Combi Zeus	5-point	5-33 pounds	20-40 pounds	\$275-\$300
Cosco Scenera	5-point shield	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	\$50-\$60
Eddie Bauer Deluxe (rear-facing, forward-facing, or booster)	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	Forward facing: 22-40 pounds, 34"-43" Belt-positioning booster: 40-80 pounds, 43"-52"	\$120-\$130
Eddie Bauer Deluxe 3-in-1 Convertible Car Seat (rear-facing, forward-facing, or booster)	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	Forward facing: 22-40 pounds, 34"-43" Belt-positioning booster: 40-100 pounds, 43"-52"	\$180-\$190
Evenflo Symphony	5-point	5-35 pounds	Forward facing: 20-40 pounds, 50" Belt-positioning booster: 30-100 pounds,	\$180-\$200

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			57"	
Evenflo Titan Elite	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-50 pounds	\$80-\$100
Evenflo Tribute 5	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-40 pounds	\$50-\$70
Evenflo Triumph Advance	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-50 pounds	\$120-\$180
The First Years True Fit	5-point	5-22 pounds without upper seat back installed 5-35 pounds with upper seat back installed	23-65 pounds, up to 50"	\$199.99
Graco ComfortSport	5-point	5-30 pounds	20-40 pounds, 40"	\$80-\$120
Maxi-Cosi Priori	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	\$200-\$230
Orbit Toddler Seat	5-point	15-35 pounds	20-50 pounds, up to 49"	\$300
Recaro Como, Signo	5-point	5-35 pounds	20-70 pounds, 50"	\$249-\$289
Safety 1st All-in-One, All-in-One Deluxe or Alpha Brand Alpha Omega (rear-facing, forward-facing, or booster)	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	Forward facing: 22-40 pounds, 34"-43" Belt-positioning booster: 40-80 pounds, 43"-52"	\$140-\$160
Safety 1st All-in-One or Alpha Brand Alpha Omega (rear-facing, forward-facing, or booster)	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	Forward facing: 22-50 pounds, 35"-45" Belt-positioning booster: 40-80 pounds, 43"-52"	\$150-\$160
Safety 1st or Alpha Brand Alpha Omega Elite (rear-facing, forward-facing, or booster)	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	Forward facing: 22-40 pounds, 34"-43" Belt-positioning booster: 40-100 pounds, 34"-52"	\$150-\$160
Safety 1st or Alpha Brand Alpha Omega Elite (rear-facing, forward-facing, or booster)	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	Forward facing: 22-50 pounds, 34"-45" Belt-positioning booster: 40-100 pounds, 34"-52"	\$160-\$170
Safety 1st Avenue	5-point	5-35 pounds, 19"-36"	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	\$80-\$90
Sunshine Kids Radian65 Car Seat	5-point	5-35 pounds	Up to 65 pounds, 53"	\$219.99

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Sunshine Kids Radian80 Car Seat	5-point	5-35 pounds	Up to 80 pounds, 53"	\$249.99
Tripleplay Products/Lilly Gold Sit n' Stroll	5-point	5-30 pounds	20-40 pounds	\$249.95

Combination seats

(Can be used with 5-point harness or as belt-positioning booster.)

Name	Weight Limits, Height Limits With Harness	Weight Limits, Height Limits as Booster	Price
Britax Frontier Harness-2-Booster	2 years of age and 25-80 pounds, 30"-53"	40-100 pounds, 42"-60"	\$279.99
Cosco High Back Booster	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	40-80 pounds, 43"-52"	\$50
Cosco Ventura	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	40-80 pounds, 43"-52"	\$60
Eddie Bauer Adjustable High Back Booster	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	40-100 pounds, 43"-48"	\$99
Eddie Bauer Deluxe High Back Booster	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	40-100 pounds, 43"-52"	\$120
Evenflo Express, Chase	20-40 pounds	30-100 pounds, 54"	\$50-\$70
Evenflo Generations, Bolero	20-40 pounds	30-100 pounds, 57"	\$70-\$100
Graco Platinum/Treasured/Ultra CarGo	20-40 pounds, 27"-43"	30-100 pounds, 35"-54"	\$69-\$99
Graco Sprout	20-65 pounds, 52"	As high back booster: 30-100 pounds, 38"-57" As backless booster: 40-100 pounds, 40"-57"	\$149
Recaro Young Sport	20-40 pounds, 27"-40"	30-80 pounds, 37"-59"	\$249
SafeGuard GO Booster	22-60 pounds, 41"-52"	40-100 pounds, 43"-57"	\$199
Safety 1st Apex 65	22-65 pounds, 34"-52"	40-100 pounds, 43"-57"	\$130
Safety 1st Summit	22-40 pounds, 34"-43"	40-100 pounds, 43"-52"	\$99.99
Safety 1st Vantage, Surveyor	22-40 pounds,	40-100 pounds,	\$80

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	34"-43"	43"-52"	
Forward-facing toddler seats			
Name	Harness Type	Weight Limits	Height Limits
Britax Regent	5-point	22-80 pounds	19"-53"
Graco Toddler SafeSeat	5-point	20-40 pounds	27"-43"
SafeGuard Child Seat	5-point	22-65 pounds	57"
			\$279.99
			\$129-\$149
			\$399
Booster seats			
Name	Type	Weight Limits	Height Limits
Chicco KeyFit Strada Booster	High back Backless	30-100 pounds 40-100 pounds	38"-57"
Clek Olli Booster Seat	Low back	40-100 pounds	40"-57"
Clek Oobr Booster Seat	High back	33-100 pounds	38"-57"
Clek Ozzie Booster Seat	Low back	40-100 pounds	40"-57"
Combi Dakota	Backless	33-100 pounds	33"-57"
Combi Kobuk	High back	33-100 pounds	33"-57"
Compass Baby Deluxe, Ultimate, Premier Folding Booster Car Seat	High back	30-100 pounds	38"-57"
Cosco Ambassador, High Rise	Backless	30-100 pounds	34"-57"
Cosco Complete Voyager	High back	40-80 pounds	43"-52"
Cosco Protek	High back	30-100 pounds	34"-57"
Cosco Pronto!	High back	30-100 pounds	34"-57"
Disney Pronto!	Backless	40-100 pounds	43"-57"
Eddie Bauer Auto Booster	High back	30-100 pounds	34"-57"
Evenflo Big Kid, Big Kid Amp	Backless	40-100 pounds	57"
Evenflo Big Kid Deluxe/LX, Everest, Quantum	High Back Backless	30-100 pounds 40-100 pounds	57"
Evenflo Sightseer	High back	30-100 pounds	37"-54"
Graco My CarGo	High back	30-100 pounds	35"-54"
Graco TurboBooster	High back Backless	30-100 pounds 40-100 pounds	38"-57" 40"-57"
Jané Indy Plus Booster Car Seat	High back	30-80 pounds	Up to 49"
Maxi-Cosi Rodi XR	High back	30-100 pounds	34"-57"
			\$120-\$140
			\$89.99
			\$239.99
			\$69.99
			\$27-\$50
			\$80-\$90
			\$60-\$100
			\$20
			\$20-\$25
			\$30-\$50
			\$35
			\$24
			\$70
			\$15-\$20
			\$40-\$80
			\$30-\$40
			\$40
			\$50-\$80 \$20-\$25
			\$199.99
			\$160

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Recaro Start	High back	30-80 pounds	59"	\$349
Recaro Vivo, Vivo Lite	High back	30-100 pounds	37"-59"	\$89-\$99
Sunshine Kids Monterey Booster Seat	High back Backless	30-120 pounds	63"	\$139.99

Travel vests

Name	Weight Limits (Age Limits)	Price
E-Z-ON Adjustable Vests 103Z Vest 203 Vest	20-168 pounds 20-65 pounds	\$120
E-Z-ON 86Y Harness	66-168 pounds	\$60-\$80
E-Z-ON Non-adjustable Vests 101 Zipper Vest 101 Push Button Vest	20-168 pounds 20-65 pounds	\$120- \$140
RideSafer Travel Vest by Safe Traffic Systems	Small vest: 35-60 pounds (3-6 years) Large vest: 50-80 pounds (5-10 years)	\$99.99

Built-in (integrated) seats

Built-in or integrated child safety seats are available on selected models from some motor vehicle manufacturers. Check with the manufacturers for specifics.

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Manufacturer phone numbers and Web sites

For more information on the seats listed in this guide, please contact the individual manufacturers.

Baby Trend

800/328-7363

www.babytrend.com

E-Z-ON Products

800/323-6598

www.ezonpro.com

Recaro of North America

248/364-3818

www.recaro.com

Britax Child Safety

888/427-4829

www.britaxusa.com

Graco

800/345-4109

www.gracobaby.com

Safe Traffic System, Inc.

773/509-0530

www.safetrafficsystem.com

Chicco USA

877/424-4226

www.chiccousa.com

Jané

415/824-1237

www.janeusa.com

SafeGuard

800/586-7839

www.safeguardseat.com

Clek

866/656-2462

www.magnaclek.com

Maxi-Cosi

800/951-4113

www.maxi-cosi.com

Safety 1st

800/544-1108

www.safety1st.com

Combi International

800/992-6624

www.combi-intl.com

Mia Moda

866/642-6632

www.miamodainc.com

Sunshine Kids Juvenile Products

888/336-7909

www.skjp.com

**Compass and The First Years
Travel Gear From Learning Curve**

888/899-2229

www.learningcurve.com

Orbit Baby

877/672-2229

www.orbitbaby.com

TriplePlay Products, LLC/Lilly Gold

800/829-1625

www.lillygold.com

Cosco, Inc.

800/544-1108

www.coscojuvenile.com

Peg Perego USA, Inc.

800/671-1701

www.pegperego.com

Eddie Bauer

800/544-1108

www.djgusa.com/eddiebauer

Evenflo Company Inc.

800/233-5921

www.evenflo.com

Although the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is not a testing or standard setting organization, this guide sets forth the AAP recommendations based on the

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peer-reviewed literature available at the time of its publication, and sets forth some of the factors that parents should consider before selecting and using a car safety seat.

The appearance of the name American Academy of Pediatrics does not constitute a guarantee or endorsement of the products listed or the claims made. Phone numbers and Web site addresses are as current as possible, but may change at any time.

Prices are approximate and may vary.

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

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