



Car Seat Safety Tips

- Follow instructions in car seat & vehicle manuals**
Always read your child's car seat instruction manual: Be sure to read your vehicle's manual as well to find the safest location to install the seat.
- Rear-face children at least until age 2**
As a best practice, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children sit rear-facing as long as possible, in order to protect their spine in case of impact.
- Use 5-point harness as long as possible**
Booster seats provide less protection than car seats with a 5-point harness. It's recommended to use a car seat up to the height and weight limits set by the manufacturer before transitioning a child to a booster seat.
- Always use top tether if applicable**
In the event of a front-impact collision, the use of a car seat's top tether provides protection to a child's neck and spine by reducing how far forward their head moves - also known as "head excursion."
- Harness should fit snug around your child**
One of the most common mistakes parents make when using their car seat is leaving the harness too loose on their child. Straps should be snug around the child's shoulder area. Harness straps should be snug around the child; you should not be able to pinch excess material in the harness. The harness retainer clip, aka "chest clip" should be lined up evenly with a child's armpits. This keeps straps on the shoulders and the clip across the chest, which is better suited to sustain accident impact.
- Only use L.A.T.Ch. in approved seating positions**
Most vehicles are not equipped with lower anchors in the rear center seat. One of the most common installation mistakes is using the two inner anchor points from the outboard seating positions to L.A.T.Ch. (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) install a car seat in the rear center seating positions. Check your vehicle manual for approved L.A.T.CH. use.