

# Five Things You Should Know About Child Safety

- Children younger than 13 should always ride in the back seat.
- Never install a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an active air bag – if the air bag deploys, the impact could kill your child.
- To choose a safety seat that's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height, always refer to the safety seat manufacturer's instruction manual.
- If the safety seat moves more than 1 inch forward or side to side, tighten it up because it's too loose.
- Harness straps should lie flat and shouldn't sag. Straps should fit snugly against your child's body.



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# Growing Up Safe



Until your child is taller than 4' 9" (typically between 8 and 12 years of age), they need to ride in a safety seat even on short trips. Read on for information about which seat is best as your child grows.

## Safety Seat Type

Rear-Facing Infant Only or Rear-Facing Convertible



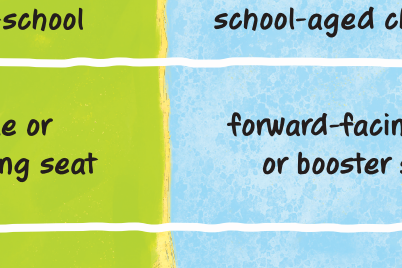
Your child should ride in a rear-facing seat until he or she reaches the weight limit or height limit of the seat, or is at least two years of age.

Convertible/Forward-Facing



Children may ride in a forward-facing seat when they are at least two years old or have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their safety seat. Keep your child in a forward-facing safety seat as long as the seat allows for it, up to the highest weight and height allowed by the safety seat manufacturer.

Booster Seats



Safety belts are designed for adults, not children. A booster seat lifts a child up and helps to prevent severe head, abdominal and spinal cord injuries in a crash.

## The Right Seat, The Right Fit

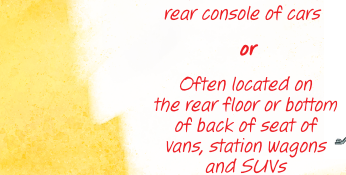
	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
AGE	infant/toddler	toddler/pre-school	school-aged children	older children
SAFETY SEAT TYPE	rear-facing infant only or rear-facing convertible seat	convertible or forward-facing seat	forward-facing seat or booster seat	booster seat or seat belt
SAFETY SEAT POSITION	rear-facing	rear-facing or forward-facing	forward-facing	forward-facing

Check seat manufacturer's instruction manual for specific age, weight and height limits.

## Common Safety Seat Questions

**How do I get the safety seat tight enough?**

If you're using the vehicle safety belts, check your vehicle manual to see how your safety belts lock. Use your hand or knee to push the safety seat tightly against the vehicle seat upholstery when pulling on the straps.



**What is the LATCH system?**

The LATCH system allows you to install a safety seat without using your vehicle's safety belts. LATCH stands for Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children. The system has metal anchors in the vehicle (where the seat cushion meets the seat back) and top tether anchors (see owner's manual). Attach connectors to metal anchors, and connect tether straps to tether anchors.



Refer to your vehicle manual and safety seat manufacturer's instructions.

**When can my child use a regular safety belt?**

- When he or she can:
- Sit straight against the vehicle seat back with knees bent over the seat edge.
  - Fasten the lap belt snugly over hips and thighs.
  - Wear the shoulder belt across the shoulder and chest (not neck).



Stay in place for the entire ride.

### Want to make sure your child's seat is properly installed?

Contact the  
**Child Passenger Safety Technician and Inspection Station Locator** at  
**866-SEAT-CHECK** or [www.seatcheck.org](http://www.seatcheck.org)

## Resources

- For more information about child safety seats and keeping your child safe, contact:
- TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
[www.texasclickitorticket.com](http://www.texasclickitorticket.com)
  - SAFE RIDERS  
800-252-8255 or [www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders)
  - NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
888-327-4236 or [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)
  - AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)
  - SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)