



Tips for Car Seat Safety in Your Baby's First Year— Choosing a Seat



The safest place for your baby is in the backseat, riding in a “rear-facing” car seat, a car seat designed to face backwards.

In a crash, the backseat is the safest place to be. And car seats that face backwards give your child’s head, neck and spine the extra protection they need particularly in the first year.

You should keep your child in a rear-facing car seat for as long as you can according

to the car seat maker’s directions. If your child is 2 or older and the car seat still fits, it’s fine for him or her to continue riding facing the rear. Be sure to check the height and weight limits for the seat; they are noted in the instruction booklet and on the labels on the seat.

Choosing a Car Seat

For safety, use a car seat that fits your child. Follow the directions for fastening the car seat in the car carefully and make sure your child is secured in the seat correctly on every trip.

There are two types of car seats that face backwards:

- “Infant-only” – seats for young babies only
- “Convertible” and “3-in-1” seats that can be switched from facing backwards to facing forward, or from rear-facing to forward-facing, to booster





Stay in the Know - Get Automatic Recall Information

Right after you install your seat, write your name and address on the postage-paid card that comes with the car seat and send it in. If the seat is found to have a possible safety problem and has to be recalled, the maker of the seat will let you know that the seat cannot be used or provide other instructions. You can also register your car seat online at www.nhtsa.gov.

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