

The Right Fit

Rear-Facing Car Seat

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents keep their child in a rear-facing seat until age 2, or until they reach the maximum height OR weight for their seat.
- Connecticut law requires a child to be rear facing until 1 year of age AND 20 lbs.



Forward-Facing Car Seat

- Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer.
- Should your child outgrow the weight or height limit of a forward-facing car seat with a harness but not be ready to stay seated properly in a booster seat using the lap and shoulder belt, look for a car seat with a higher weight or height limit.



Booster Seat

- The time to transition your child out of a booster seat and into a seat belt usually comes when the child is between 8 and 12 years old. Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she outgrows the size limits of the booster seat or is big enough to fit properly in a seat belt.
- Connecticut law requires all children to ride in an approved seat until they are 7 years of age AND 60 lbs.



Seatbelts

- Children should ride in the rear seat of a vehicle until they are 13 years old.
- The shoulder belt should lie across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not near the neck or face. The lap belt should fit low and snug on the hips and upper thighs, not across the belly.



Additional Information

- Always read the car seat and vehicle manuals when installing and using a car seat.
- Fines are issued for violations of this law. Violators must participate in a Department of Motor Vehicles mandatory child safety class or face license suspension.
- To find out more visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>
- If your car seat has been involved in a crash, contact the car seat manufacturer. It may need to be replaced!
- If you have questions or would like to schedule a car seat inspection, call the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Injury Prevention Department at 203-200-KIDS.

