



Car Seat Safety

PATIENT/FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

Why are car seats important?

When used correctly, car seats help reduce and prevent deaths. Every state requires that infants and children ride buckled up. Motor vehicle related injuries and deaths account for 40% of all unintentional injuries to children ages 14 and under.

What is the “BEST” car seat for my infant?

The best car seat is one that fits your child’s size and weight and can be installed correctly in your car. You don’t need to spend a lot of money. All new car seats must meet a strict government safety standard. New car seats are recommended for all infants. All new car seats must meet stringent safety standards. If the car seat is received as a gift, look for the label indicating safety standards. Never use a car seat that is not labeled or that has been in an accident.

How can I be sure my car seat is installed properly?

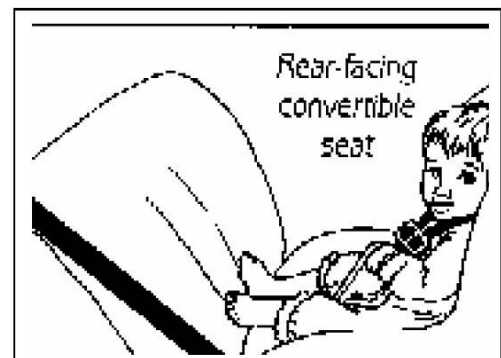
All car seats come with manufacturer instructions and it is important that you read the owner’s manual for the car seat and your vehicle owner’s manual regarding car seat installation. Car seat installation varies with the type of restraint system in your vehicle. Not every car seat will fit in every car. It’s a good idea to try the seat in your vehicle prior to purchase.

Remember that the safest place for your children to ride is in the back seat.

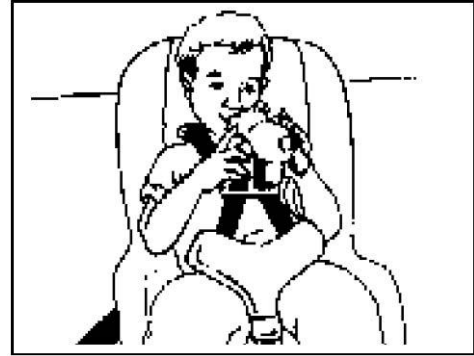
What types of car seats are available?

The most common infant car seats available are as follows:

Infant-only Safety Seats have a separate base that can be installed in the vehicle with the safety belt and left in place. The infant safety seat locks into the base for motor vehicle travel and converts to an infant carrier outside the vehicle. The infant safety seat can also be used without the base with the safety belt through an alternative belt path.



Convertible Safety Seats: Is used facing the rear for infants from birth up to 35 pounds depending on the seat (be sure to read the owners manuals to find out the weight and height limits of the seat). When the convertible seat is used rear-facing it should be in a reclined position at 45 degrees with the harness at or just below the child’s shoulder level. Car sets should be rear-facing until the child is 2 years old or meets manufacturer’s weight and height for their seat.



Forward-facing Seats: This seat should be placed in the upright position and the harness straps moved into the upper slots (unless you have a Britax seat). The seat can be used until the child reaches 40 pounds for most models (again read your instructions closely) or the child exceeds the height limits of the seat.

- Make sure that you are using the proper belt path for the seatbelt in the forward facing mode. This is usually the path behind the child’s back.
- Be sure to complete and return the registration card when you purchase a seat. This is the only way the company can contact you should the seat be recalled for any reason.



How can I learn more about car seat safety?

Car seat safety is discussed and reviewed in ***Tender Beginnings*** baby care classes at Greenwich Hospital. If you have questions, contact any of the following resources:

Organization	Contact	Phone
Greenwich Hospital	“Warm Line”	203 863 3569
Web Sites Resources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe Kids USA www.safekids.org ○ American Association of Pediatrics: www.aap.org 		

For more patient fact sheets, see the Greenwich Hospital web site at www.greenwichhospital.org and click on Patients, then click Education and go to Patient Education Fact Sheets.