

700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
NationwideChildrens.org

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY: CAR SEATS AND CAR BEDS (Infants)

Ohio law states that **all** children must be restrained in a correctly used child safety seat until they are **4 years of age *and* weigh at least 40 pounds**. Very small infants do not fit well into many common infant or convertible seats. Some premature infants may have breathing problems or other conditions that require them to ride in car beds. Your baby may need to ride in a different infant seat from the one you already have. Some car seats do not allow a child smaller than 5 pounds to ride in them. Please read the information checked below for the type of restraint needed for your baby. Instructions for using a car bed are on page 2.

THE CAR SEAT TEST

If your child was premature, a car seat test may be needed. The baby is put in his car seat for about the length of time it takes for the ride home. The child is watched closely to make sure he can handle being at that angle for this length of time. If he doesn't pass the car seat test, the test will be repeated. If he doesn't pass the second test, a car bed may be needed for his trip home. Car beds are available at the hospital.

WHEN A DIFFERENT RESTRAINT IS NEEDED

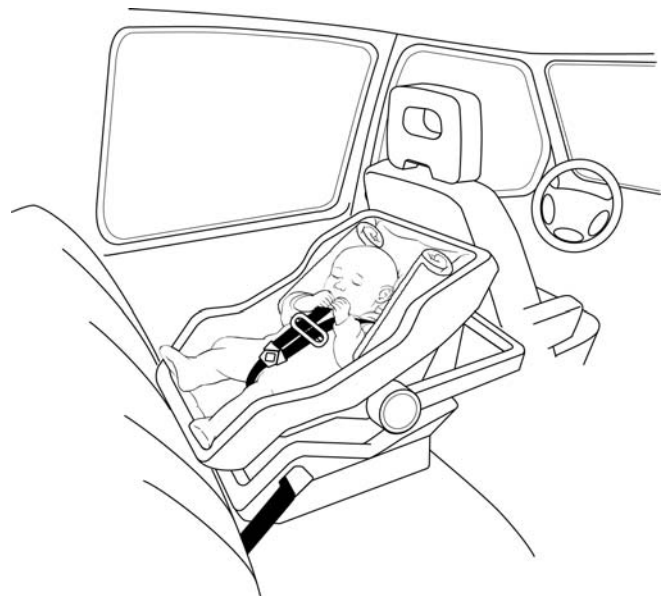
Infant-only seat – Small babies sometimes do not fit well in all infant seats. Some infant seats are suitable for children under 5 pounds. These seats are rear-facing only. (See Page 3 for a list of infant-only car seats with exact weight limits.)

Convertible car seat – Sometimes a small baby will not fit well in a convertible seat, even though the seat is okay for a child 5 pounds or more. These seats are used rear-facing for an infant or toddler up to 33 to 35 pounds, depending on the top weight listed by the maker of the seat, then forward-facing from age one and at least 20 pounds up to the top weight listed by the maker of the seat.

Car bed – Sometimes a car bed is needed for a child who has trouble being placed at a 45 degree angle. These include:

- Angel Ride Infant Car Bed, child's weight less than 9 pounds, height less than 20 inches
- Dream Ride by Cosco, child's weight 5 to 20 pounds, height 19 to 26 inches

The Passenger Safety Specialist or your baby's nurse will tell you which car seat or car bed to use and will show you how to place your child in the seat or bed (follow the instructions that are checked on the next page).



Picture 1 Rear-facing infant seat.

☐ CAR SEAT

Read the owner's manual for your vehicle. Read the instruction manual for your car seat. A rear-facing car seat should be reclined at a 45-degree angle so the child's head does not fall forward. Most seats have a leveler on the car seat or the base showing the correct angle. Many car seats have feet that can be adjusted to change the angle of the car seat. A firmly rolled-up towel under the base of the car seat may be used if the car seat foot does not work and the car seat instructions allow.

1. Secure the child restraint in the back seat by routing the safety belt through the car seat. Follow the instructions that came with the car seat.
2. If your vehicle and car seat were produced after September of 2002, the latch attachment can be used instead of the seat belt. Make sure the selected vehicle anchors are designed to be used together to hold a car seat. Buckle and lock the seatbelt in the seating position used with latch before installing the car seat.
3. Get a tight fit. The car seat should not move more than one inch forward or from side-to-side from where it's attached to the vehicle. A few rear-facing car seats allow the seat to be tethered. Follow the instructions for your car seat.

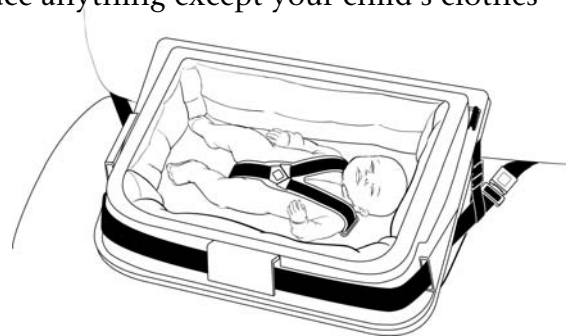
How to Place Your Child in the Car Seat

Always read and follow the instructions that came with the car seat. Also read and follow the instructions in the owner's manual of the vehicle.

1. Put the rear-facing car seat in the back seat – **never in the front seat with a passenger airbag**. Place your child in the car seat. The child's back and bottom should be flat against the back of the car seat. Do not bundle your child. You may place blankets around the child after the harness straps are buckled.
2. When using a car seat rear-facing, harness straps should be at or below your child's shoulders (Picture 1). When using a car seat forward-facing, harness straps should be at or above your child's shoulders.
3. The harness straps should fit snugly against your child's body. No more than one adult finger should fit in between the child's collarbone and the harness straps.
4. The harness clip should be at your child's armpit level. The harness clip keeps the harness straps close and snug on the child's shoulders.
5. If needed, support your child's head **with folded towels** or rolled-up receiving blankets on either side of the head. Do not wrap towels or blanket rolls around the head. Never use after-market head rolls in a car seat or car bed. **Never** place anything except your child's clothes behind his back or under his bottom.

☐ CAR BED

1. Place the bed in the back seat behind the front passenger seat so that your baby's head is near the center of the car.
2. Use the car's safety belt to anchor the bed. Make sure the belt is as tight as possible. Please see the owner's manual for details about installing your type of car bed.
3. Place your baby on his back unless your doctor has advised you otherwise. Your teaching therapist can help with positioning.
4. Do not place anything else in the car bed or under it, unless your teaching therapist or Passenger Safety Specialist recommends it.



Picture 2 Angel Ride Car Bed.

USED CAR SEATS AND CAR BEDS

A used child safety seat **should not be used** unless you are certain it has never been in a crash, it has been checked for recalls, and you have all the pieces including the instructions. However, a used car seat is better than no seat at all. **Seats should not be used for more than 6 years.**

If you would like more information, please contact one of Nationwide Children's Hospital's child passenger safety specialists at (614) 722-6524 or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

Infant-only seats				
Name	Harness Type	Rear-Facing Weight Limits	Height Limits	Approximate Price
Baby Trend EZ-Loc, Flex-Loc, Latch-Loc Adjustable Back	5-point	5-22 pounds	28.5"	\$79.99– \$199.99
Britax Companion	5-point	4-22 pounds	30"	\$159–\$199
Chicco Key Fit Infant Car Seat	5-point	4-22 pounds	30"	\$150–\$160
Chicco KeyFit 30 Infant Car Seat	5-point	4–30 pounds	30"	\$160–\$170
Combi Centre/ST/DX/EX	5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$110–\$130
Combi Connection	5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$159.99
Combi Shuttle	5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$125–\$150
Compass Baby Infant Car Seat	5-point	4-22 pounds	30"	\$120–\$140
Eddie Bauer Deluxe Infant Car Seat	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"–29"	\$100
Evenflo Discovery 5	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"–29"	\$50-\$60
Evenflo Embrace	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"–29"	\$60-\$90
Evenflo First Choice 5	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"–29"	\$40
Graco Infant Safe Seat	5-point	5-30 pounds	32"	\$129–\$149
Graco SnugRide	3-point 5-point	5-22 pounds	29"	\$79–\$119
Maxi-Cosi Mico	5-point	5–22 pounds	19"–29"	\$149–\$169
Mia Moda Viva Infant Car Seat	5-point	22 pounds	29"	\$99–\$109
Orbit Infant Car Seat	5-point	22 pounds	29"	\$899.95
Peg Perego Primo Viaggio SIP 30/30	5-point	30 pounds	30"	\$249–\$299
Safety 1st Designer 22, First Ride, Starter, Starter DX	5-point	5-22 pounds	19"–29"	\$60-\$80
Safety 1st On Board Infant Car Seat	5-point	4-22 pounds	29"	