Child Auto Safety Seat Use Chart **

	Infants	Toddlers	School Age	Older Children
Car Safety Devices	Infant-only seats Convertible seats (convert from rear to front facing)	Convertible seats Toddler seats Combination forward-facing and booster seats Travel vests Built-in seats	Booster Seats (use until outgrown and adult belts fit correctly) Travel vests	Lap and shoulder belts
Seat Position	Infants under 1 year and under 20 lbs **rear-facing only** Back seat only	Over 1 year and at least 20 lbs **can ride forward-facing** but best to use rear-facing as long as possible Back seat only	Forward-facing. Back seat only	Back seat until age 13

General Guidelines	If more than one harness slot, harness should be at or below the shoulders Angle the seat so the baby's head is not flopping forward. If no angle adjusters on the car seat, tilt with a rolled towel under the front of the seat. Pad the side of the seat with rolled cloth diapers or blankets to prevent tiny infants from slouching to the side.	Best to ride in a harnessed seat as long as possible, at least to age 4 or the child has outgrown Signs that child has outgrown their seat: ➢ Over the weight or height limit for seat. ➢ Shoulders are above top harness slots. ➢ Ears are at or above top of seat. If more than one harness slot on a convertible seat, harness should be at or above the shoulders. Some convertible seats require top slot for forward-facing position.	Always use **both** shoulder and lap belts to secure booster seat. Shoulder belt should be snug and cross the middle of the chest and shoulder Lap belt should fit low and tight across the upper thigh If car only has lap belts: ➢ Use a forward-facing safety seat with a harness and higher weight limits. ➢ Check to see if shoulder belts can be installed. ➢ Use a travel vest ➢ Change to a new car with shoulder belts.	Lap and shoulder belts can be used if child has outgrown booster seat. Also only use lap and shoulder belts if: ➢ They fit the child (Usually between 8 and 12 years and above 4'9"). ➢ Shoulder belt is across middle of chest and shoulder, NOT the neck. ➢ Lap belt is low and snug across the upper thighs NOT the belly ➢ Child is tall enough to sit against the seat with knees bent Never let your child tuck the shoulder belt under an arm or behind the back Never share seat belts

Warnings and important notes!	All children age 12 years and under should ride in the back seat Air bags can cause serious head and neck injury or death in children – especially those in rear-facing car seats or children not properly positioned in a car seat. If there are front seat air bags in your car, infants in rear-facing seats must ride in the back seat. If absolutely necessary for a child under the age of 12 years to ride in the front seat: Use a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness. Move the car seat back from the dashboard (and the air bag) as far as you can. Consider turning off the air bag if this is going to be a long term solution. Always read and follow the car seat owner's manual instructions. Be sure car seats are installed tightly – the seat should not move more than one inch front to back or side to side Car seat harnesses should fit the child snugly. Use locking clips on your car's seat belts if needed (see your car owner manual). Cars made after 2002 may have a system (called 'LATCH') for securing car safety seats. Anchors in the back seat can be used instead of seat belts to attach car seats – only if the car seats are equipped for LATCH.

** These guidelines are based on those created by the American Academy of Pediatrics concerning child auto safety. **Laws and regulations regarding child auto safety vary from state to state.**

Depending on the model (check the manual):

- Some infant and convertible seats can be used up to 32 pounds
- Some forward-facing toddler seats can be used up to 40 to 80 pounds.
- Some combination forward-facing/booster seats can be used up to 40 to 65 pounds with a harness.
- Some combination forward-facing/booster seats can be used up to 80 to 120 pounds without the harness - as a booster.
- Travel vests can be worn by children between 20 to 168 pounds. Can be an alternative to standard forward-facing seats.

NHTSA recommends that child safety seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash in order to ensure a continued high level of crash protection for child passengers.

Document Released: 12/20/2004 Document Re-Released: 01/09/2011
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