How to use your child’s rear-facing seat

A rear-facing seat gives the best protection for your child’s head, neck and spine in a sudden stop or crash. When your baby outgrows the infant seat, use a larger, rear-facing seat.

**How to use your child’s rear-facing seat**

- **Make sure the harness straps are in the slot level with or below your child’s shoulders.**
- **Tighten the harness straps. You should not be able to pinch the harness at the shoulder.**
- **The harness should be flat with no twists.**
- **Place the chest clip at your child’s armpit level.**
- **Place the car seat in the back seat, facing the back of the vehicle.**
- **Attach the seat using the lower anchors (UAS) or seat belt and tighten.**
- **If you use the seat belt, it must be locked.**
- **The seat should move less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) where it is attached to the car.**
- **Adjust the seat to recline at the correct angle. Check your instructions.**

Read your vehicle manual and follow the instructions for your seat.
Helpful tips for using your rear-facing seat

- If you are using a seat that can be used in different ways, read the instructions to find out how to set it up for rear facing.
- Read the instructions to find out how to change the angle on your car seat. Some seats may be installed more upright for an older baby or toddler.
- Make sure your child’s head is at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) below the top of the seat. It is safe for your child’s feet to touch the back seat of the car.
- Make sure your seat is safe to use. You can find a checklist, videos and other resources on our website.

When is your child ready for the next seat?

- Check the labels on your seat to find out when your child will reach the seat’s height or weight limits.
- Keep your child rear facing for as long as he or she still fits the larger, rear-facing seat.
- Your child is safest riding rear facing until 2, 3 or even 4 years old, as long as he or she still fits within the height and weight limits for the seat.