

Is your child in the right seat?

A road map through the ages and stages

Start



1

Infant seat

All babies start off in a rear-facing seat. Check the labels to find out when your baby will reach the seat's height or weight limits.

2

Rear-facing seat

When your baby outgrows the infant seat, use a larger, rear-facing seat. Keep your child rear facing for as long as they still fit this seat. Your child is safest riding rear facing until 2, 3 or even 4 years old. A rear-facing seat provides the best protection for your child's head, neck and spine in a sudden stop or crash.

3

Forward-facing seat

This seat protects a child who has outgrown the larger, rear-facing seat. Keep your child in a 5-point harness until they weigh at least 18 kg (40 pounds) and are able to sit correctly. This may be at 4, 5 or even 6 years old. If your child outgrows this seat before they are ready, you will need a 5-point harness that will hold a taller, heavier child.

4

Booster seat

A booster seat lifts your child up so that the seat belt fits across the strongest bones. Your child must weigh at least 18 kg (40 pounds) to use a booster seat, and must be able to sit straight and tall without unbuckling. Most children are 10-12 years old before they can safely use the adult seat belt without a booster seat.

5

Adult seat belt

Is your child ready for a seat belt?

- Is your child at least 145 cm (4 foot 9 inches) tall?
- Do your child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat when sitting back?
- Does the lap belt stay low and snug across the hip bones?
- Does the shoulder belt cross the chest and stay between the neck and shoulder?
- Can your child sit like this for the whole ride without slouching?

Keep using a booster seat until your child can meet all 5 steps.

Never rush your child into the next stage of seat before they are ready. Always follow the directions for your seat.