



**EXTENDED REAR-FACING:
TAKE THE 15-MINUTE
CHALLENGE!**

Forward-facing is not a milestone — it is a step down in safety. Challenge yourself to take 15 minutes to do an internet search on "extended rearfacing."

See why the AAP and child passenger safety organizations recommend rear-facing for as long as possible, beyond the minimum of 1 year and 20 pounds.

**IT'S TOO IMPORTANT
TO MISS!**



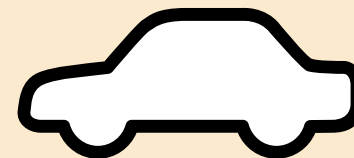
HELPFUL LINKS

www.car-seat.org
www.carseat.org
www.cpsafety.com
www.safekids.org
www.seatcheck.org
www.thecarseatlady.com

Contact a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) if you have any questions. Verify that anyone who checks your installation or installs your seat is a CPST whose certification is current.

**4 OUT OF 5 KIDS ARE
UNSAFE IN THE CAR...**

**IS YOURS
ONE OF THEM?**



Motor vehicle injuries
are the leading cause of death
among children in the U.S.
(CDC 2006)

COMMON MISUSE

Forward-facing too soon...

- 1 year *AND* 20 pounds is the bare minimum. Both criteria must be met. Consider extended rear-facing (see the *15-Minute Challenge*).

Harness too loose...

- Should pass the "pinch test." If you can pinch a horizontal fold in the harness just below the shoulder, it is too loose.

Chest clip too low...

- Should be at armpit level.

Using an infant insert, snuzler, bunting, or blanket that goes behind the baby...

- Reduces safety and voids the car seat warranty. Use only products that came with the car seat. Blankets that go *over* the car seat may be used.

Wearing thick or puffy coats in the car seat...

- Reduces safety; use a thin fleece jacket or blankets in the car.

The child has outgrown the car seat by height or weight, or both...

- Replace the seat immediately.

Using the wrong harness slots for your child...

- Rear-facing: should be at or *below* shoulders.
- Forward-facing: should be at or *above* shoulders. If this is not possible, then the child has outgrown the seat.

LATCH used in the center seating position...

- Most car manufacturers do not allow this. Check your car manual; if it is not explicitly stated as a valid configuration, then it is not allowed.

Both LATCH and seatbelt are used...

- Choose one. They should never be used together.

LATCH used beyond the LATCH weight limit...

- Usually 40 or 48 pounds; check your car seat manual and car manual for the limits, and use the lower of the two. Install with the seatbelt once the limit is reached.

Buying a used carseat...

- Not recommended. Check accident history, recalls, and expiration date.

Using an expired car seat...

- Replace the seat immediately. Most seats expire after 6 years. The car seat shell usually has a sticker with either the date of manufacture or the expiration date. Also refer to your car seat manual.

Using a car seat that was in the car during a collision...

- Call the car seat manufacturer and check the manual to see if you need to replace the seat. Auto insurance may reimburse the cost of a new car seat.

Top tether not used...

- Rear-facing: only a couple of brands currently allow top tether use.
- Forward-facing: top tether *must* be used if LATCH is used. Also recommended for seatbelt installations. Check the manual for appropriate use and limits.

Moving to a booster seat too soon...

- 4 years *AND* 40 pounds is the bare minimum; there are car seats with a 5-point harness that can be used to 65 or even 80 pounds.