

# Car Seat Safety

## Less than 1 year old



*The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children remain rear-facing until 2 years of age or until they reach the upper height or weight limits of their car seat.*

### Choosing a Car Seat Infant/Rear-facing only

- An infant seat usually has a base that you can leave attached in the car and a seat with a carrying handle. A child can use this seat beginning around 4-5 pounds.
- Please check the label on the side of the seat to see what the weight limit is for your particular seat. Many rear-facing only seats can be used until 22-40 pounds.
- Once your child weighs more than the limit of the seat, or when their head gets closer than 1 inch to the top of the seat, it is time to move them into the next seat.

### Convertible

- Many convertible seats also work well for infants because they can be used beginning at 5 pounds.
- Convertible car seats go both rear and forward-facing in the car and can typically be used longer than an infant seat.
- This seat stays installed in the car and does not allow you to carry the child in the seat.

### Using a Car Seat

- A child should remain rear facing until they reach a **minimum of 1 year AND 20 pounds**.
- The baby should always ride in the back seat of the car. If your child must ride in the front seat, make sure the air bag is turned off.
- When rear-facing, a child's harnesses should be placed at or below their shoulders. The chest clip should be at armpit level or across the nipple line.
- The harness should be snug so that you can't pinch excess webbing at the child's shoulders.
- Child's head needs to be 1 inch below the top of the seat.

### Proper Installation is Key

- Before installing the seat, read both your car and the car seat's instruction manuals to make sure the seat is installed properly.
- Make sure to use either the LATCH system or the seat belt when installing the car seat.
- Make sure your child's car seat is checked by a certified seat technician!
- To find a fitting station near you, call your local fire or police station or visit [www.cincinnatichildrens.org/ccic](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/ccic).

### Other Helpful Tips

- Never purchase a used car seat—you may not know the history of the seat!
- Never use anything with the car seat that was not originally sold with the seat. When car seats are tested for safety, they are crash-tested with only the products that come with the seat.

For more information, please contact the Comprehensive Children's Injury Center (CCIC) at 513-636-7865, Option 1.