

Types of Car Seats

Age Group	Type of Seat	General Guidelines
Infants & toddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rear-facing—only• Rear-facing convertible	All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing seat until they are at least 2 years of age or reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat manufacturer.
Toddlers & preschoolers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convertible• Forward-facing with harness	Children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their convertible seat should use a forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat manufacturer.
School-aged children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Booster seats	All children whose weight or height exceeds the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are 8 through 12 years of age. All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.
Older children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seat belts	When children are old enough and large enough for the vehicle seat belt to fit them correctly, they should always use lap and shoulder seat belts for the best protection. All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat.