

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  
Child Safety Seat Recommendations**General Child Seat Use Information****Buckle Everyone. Children Age 12 and Under in Back!**

AGE /WEIGHT	SEAT TYPE /SEAT POSITION	USAGE TIPS
<b>INFANTS - FROM BIRTH TO AT LEAST 1 YEAR OLD AND AT LEAST 20 POUNDS</b>	<p>Infant only seat/rear-facing or convertible seat/used rear-facing</p> <p>For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in <b>rear-facing</b> child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.</p> <p><b><i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Never use in a front seat where an air bag is present.</li> <li>▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing the rear.</li> <li>▪ Child seat should recline at approximately a 45 degree angle.</li> <li>▪ Harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level (lower set of slots for most convertible child safety seats).</li> <li>▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.</li> </ul>
<b>TODDLERS - AGE 1 &amp; 20 LBS TO AGE 4 &amp; 40 LBS</b>	<p>When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in <b>forward-facing</b> child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).</p> <p><b><i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing forward.</li> <li>▪ Harness straps/slots at or above child's shoulders (usually top set of slots for convertible child safety seats).</li> <li>▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.</li> </ul>
<b>Although Ohio law does not require booster seats when children are transported in vehicles by child care centers and type A homes, the following standard is recommended.</b>		
<b>CHILDREN - FROM AGE 4 TO AT LEAST AGE 8</b>	<p>Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in <b>booster seats</b>, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).</p> <p><b><i>NEVER use with lap-only belts—belt-positioning boosters are always used with lap AND shoulder belts.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Booster used with adult lap and shoulder belt in rear seat.</li> <li>▪ Shoulder belt should rest snugly across chest, rests on shoulder; and should NEVER be placed under the arm or behind the back.</li> <li>▪ Lap-belt should rest low, across the lap/upper thigh area—not across the stomach.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional information is available at: <a href="http://nhtsa.gov">http://nhtsa.gov</a></b> (Select "Vehicles and Equipment" and then "Child Seats")</p>		