

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
BIRTH TO AT LEAST 1 YEAR AND AT LEAST 20 POUNDS.	Infant-Only Seat/rear-facing or Convertible Seat/used rear-facing. <i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Never use in a front seat where an air bag is present. ▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing the rear. ▪ Child seat should recline at approximately a 45 degree angle. ▪ Harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level (lower set of slots for most convertible child safety seats). ▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.
LESS THAN 1 YEAR/ 20-35 LBS.	Convertible Seat/used rear-facing (select one recommended for heavier infants). <i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Never use in a front seat where an air bag is present. ▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing the rear. ▪ Child seat should recline at approximately a 45 degree angle. ▪ Harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level (lower set of slots for most convertible child safety seats). ▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.
1 TO 4 YEARS/ AT LEAST 20 LBS. TO APPROXIMATELY 40 LBS.	Convertible Seat/forward-facing or Forward-Facing Only or High Back Booster/Harness. <i>Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the safety belts or by the LATCH system.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tightly install child seat in rear seat, facing forward. ▪ Harness straps/slots at or above child's shoulders (usually top set of slots for convertible child safety seats). ▪ Harness straps snug on child; harness clip at armpit level.
Although not required by Ohio state law, the following standard is recommended.		
4 TO AT LEAST 8 YEARS/UNLESS THEY ARE 4'9" (57") TALL.	Belt-Positioning Booster (no back, only) or High Back Belt-Positioning Booster. <i>NEVER use with lap-only belts—belt-positioning boosters are always used with lap AND shoulder belts.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Booster used with adult lap and shoulder belt in rear seat. ▪ Shoulder belt should rest snugly across chest, rests on shoulder; and should NEVER be placed under the arm or behind the back. ▪ Lap-belt should rest low, across the lap/upper thigh area—not across the stomach.

Additional information is available at: <http://nhtsa.gov>

(Select "Vehicles and Equipment" and then "Child Seats")