

Car Seat Recommendations: Choosing the Right Seat

AGE (YEARS)

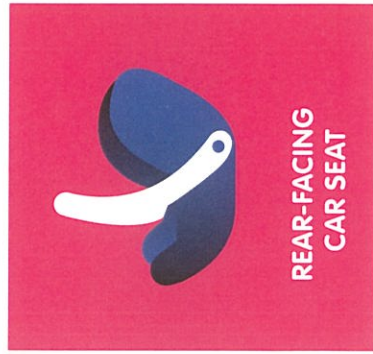
Birth 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13+

REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

BOOSTER SEAT

SEAT BELT



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

In Illinois, your child under **age 2** must always ride in a rear-facing car seat. Rear-facing car seats should always be in the back seat and never in front of an active air bag. There are different car seats that will accommodate your young child: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats can be used both rear-facing and forward-facing, and typically have higher height and weight limits.

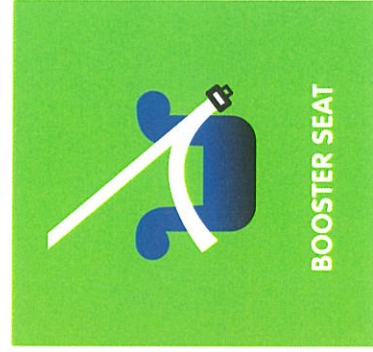
A **rear-facing car seat** is the best seat for your child to use. It has an internal harness and in a crash, protects and moves with your child to reduce stress on the head, neck and spine.



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child is at least age 2 and has reached the rear-facing car seat's height or weight limit, he or she is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether in the back seat.

A **forward-facing car seat** has an internal harness to widely distribute crash forces and a top tether to limit forward movement during a sudden stop or crash.



BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows his or her forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat using a lap and shoulder seat belt, in the back seat. In Illinois, your child must ride in an appropriately adjusted child restraint (or booster seat) until **at least age 8**.

A **booster seat** positions a lap and shoulder seat belt so that it fits properly over the strongest parts of your child's body.



SEAT BELT

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly, the lap portion must sit on the lower hips, not the stomach. The shoulder portion must lie flat, crossing the shoulder and chest, not the neck or face. Your child should remain in the back seat until at least age 13.

A **seat belt** is designed to fit an adult's body, 4'9" or taller. Never place the shoulder belt under your child's arm or behind his or her back to achieve proper fit.

Car crashes are a **leading killer of children** ages 1 to 13.

In 2016, **723 children** under 13 were killed in passenger vehicle crashes.



Of those killed, more than **1 in 3** were unrestrained.

Car seats reduce the risk of infants being killed in cars by



Car seats reduce the risk of toddlers being killed in cars by



To maximize safety, avoid early graduation to the next car seat. Always follow the car seat manufacturer's height and weight guidelines.



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