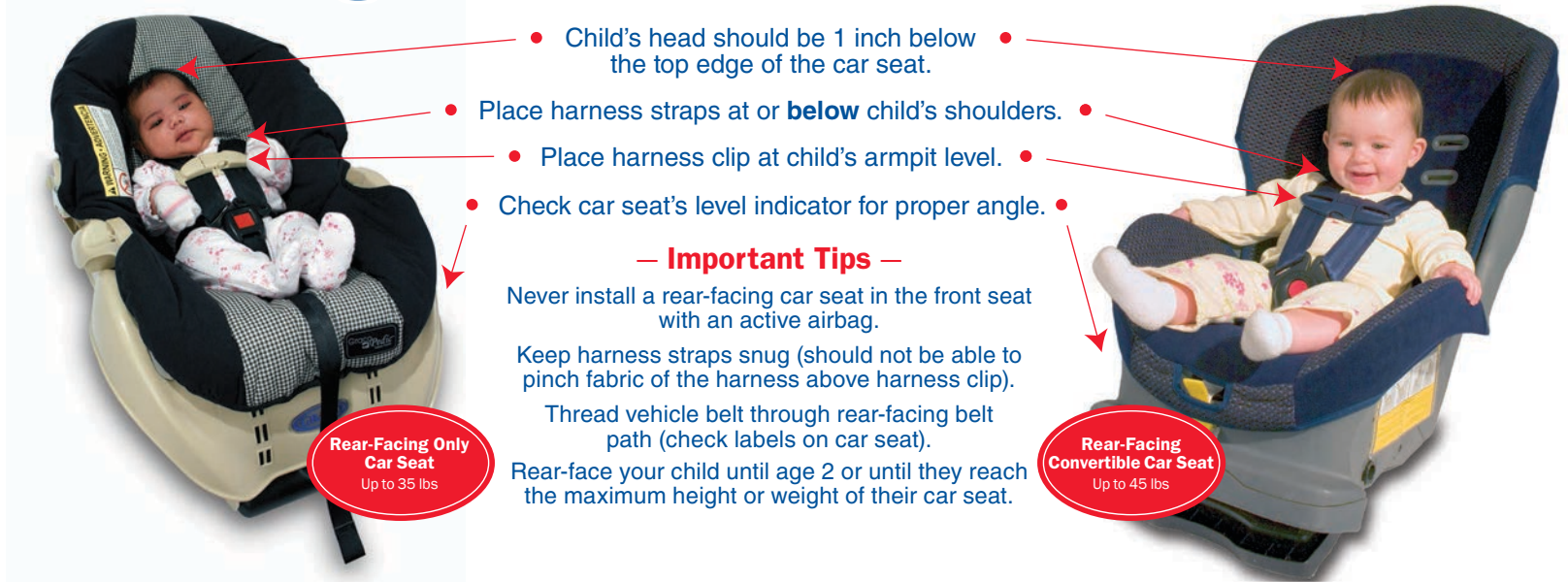


## Rear-Facing Seats



- Child's head should be 1 inch below the top edge of the car seat.
- Place harness straps at or **below** child's shoulders.
- Place harness clip at child's armpit level.
- Check car seat's level indicator for proper angle.

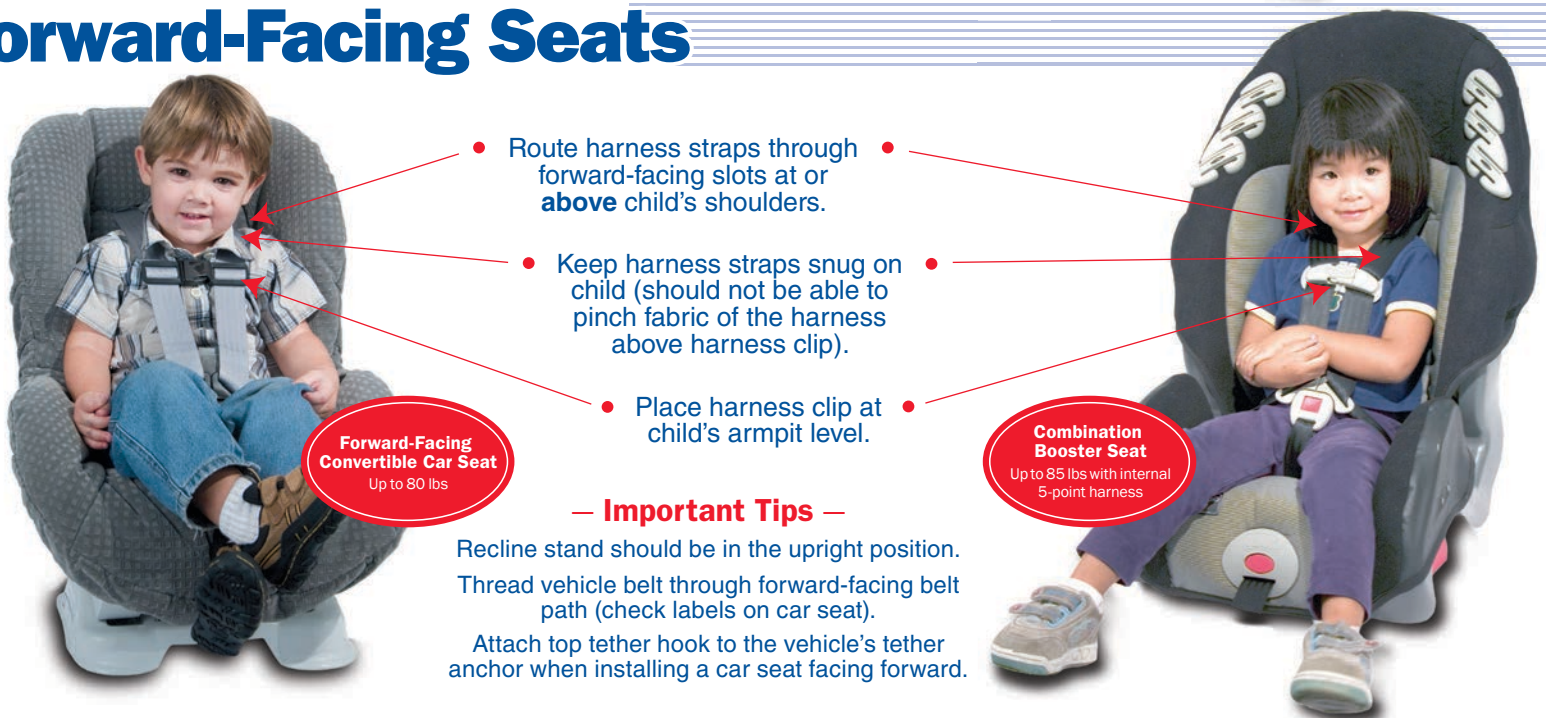
**– Important Tips –**

- Never install a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active airbag.
- Keep harness straps snug (should not be able to pinch fabric of the harness above harness clip).
- Thread vehicle belt through rear-facing belt path (check labels on car seat).
- Rear-face your child until age 2 or until they reach the maximum height or weight of their car seat.

**Rear-Facing Only Car Seat**  
Up to 35 lbs

**Rear-Facing Convertible Car Seat**  
Up to 45 lbs

## Forward-Facing Seats



- Route harness straps through forward-facing slots at or **above** child's shoulders.
- Keep harness straps snug on child (should not be able to pinch fabric of the harness above harness clip).
- Place harness clip at child's armpit level.

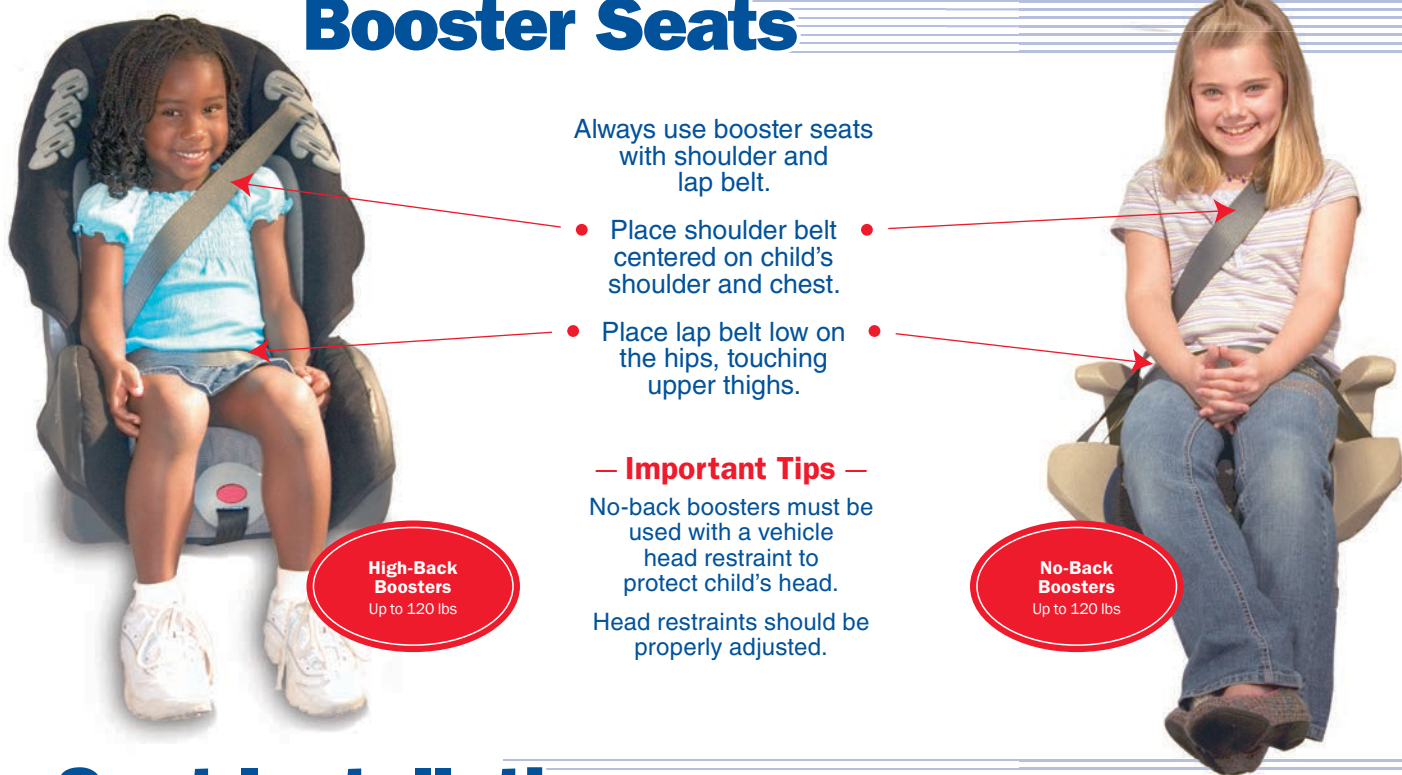
**– Important Tips –**

- Recline stand should be in the upright position.
- Thread vehicle belt through forward-facing belt path (check labels on car seat).
- Attach top tether hook to the vehicle's tether anchor when installing a car seat facing forward.

**Forward-Facing Convertible Car Seat**  
Up to 80 lbs

**Combination Booster Seat**  
Up to 85 lbs with internal 5-point harness

## Booster Seats



Always use booster seats with shoulder and lap belt.

- Place shoulder belt centered on child's shoulder and chest.
- Place lap belt low on the hips, touching upper thighs.

**– Important Tips –**

- No-back boosters must be used with a vehicle head restraint to protect child's head.
- Head restraints should be properly adjusted.

**High-Back Boosters**  
Up to 120 lbs

**No-Back Boosters**  
Up to 120 lbs

## Car Seat Installation

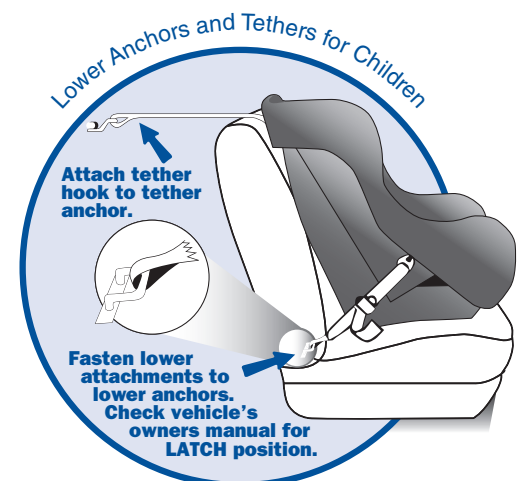
Both lower anchors and the vehicle seat belt are safe options for installing car seats. **Do not use lower anchors and vehicle seat belt together when installing a car seat. Always read the vehicle's owners manual and car seat instructions.**

### To install your car seat with a vehicle seat belt:

- 1) **IDENTIFY** how to lock your vehicle seat belt, when installing a car seat.
- 2) **ROUTE** vehicle seat belt through correct belt path of car seat and buckle it.
- 3) **COMPRESS** car seat while tightening seat belt. Make sure to activate the locking mechanism of the vehicle seat belt.
- 4) **TETHER** car seat if instructions allow.
- 5) **CHECK** car seat installation. Car seat should not move more than 1 inch side-to-side **from the belt path.**

### To install your car seat with lower anchors:

- 1) **LOCATE** vehicle's lower anchors by reading vehicle's owners manual.
- 2) **ROUTE** car seat's lower anchor attachments through correct belt path of the car seat.
- 3) **FASTEN** car seat's lower anchor attachments to vehicle's lower anchors.
- 4) **COMPRESS** car seat while tightening car seat's lower attachments.
- 5) **ATTACH** car seat's top tether hook to vehicle's tether anchor and pull to tighten. See vehicle's owners manual for location of tether anchor.



**Notes:** Tethers are not used on most rear-facing car seats. Follow car seat labels for lower anchors limits.



## California Passenger Safety Laws

Children under age 8 must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.

Children age 8 or older, or who are 4'9" or taller, may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.

Everyone in the car must be properly buckled up. For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$475 and get a point on their driving record.

### New Law Effective January 1, 2017

Children under 2 years old must be rear-facing unless they weigh 40 pounds or more, or are 40 inches tall or more.

Is your child ready to fit in a vehicle seat belt?

#### 5-Step Test

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
3. Is the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest?
4. Is the lap belt low on the hips, touching upper thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to ride safely in the car. Riding in a booster is more comfortable, too!



## Just The Facts!

### Did you know . . .

Car crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 12?

### The good news . . .

Knowing how to properly install a child safety seat can help increase your child's chance of survival and reduce injury.

### Research shows . . .

Child safety seats can reduce deaths by as much as 71% for infants, and 54% for toddlers ages 1-4 years.<sup>1</sup> For children 4 to 7 years, booster seats reduce injury risk by 45% compared to seat belt alone.<sup>2</sup>

### How to keep your children safe . . .

Although nationally four out of five car seats are installed incorrectly, parents can do their part to make their child safe by doing the following:

1. Read the installation instructions, which accompany the car seat and your vehicle.
2. Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and one that you will use correctly every time.
3. Place children under 13 in the back seat. Rear seats are the safest seats in the vehicle.
4. Never install a rear-facing car seat onto the front seat of a vehicle with an active airbag.
5. Rear-face your child until maximum limits that the car seat instructions allow. Rear-facing provides the best protection for a child's neck and spinal cord.
6. Check that the car seat is secure (should not move more than 1 inch side-to-side at the belt path), and that your child is securely buckled up.

<sup>1</sup> Durbin, D. R. (2011). <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/03/21/peds.2011-0215.full.pdf> Technical report—Child passenger safety. Pediatrics, 127(4). Advance online publication.

<sup>2</sup> Arbogast KB, Jermakian JS, Kallan MJ, Durbin DR. Effectiveness of belt-positioning booster seats: an updated assessment. Pediatrics 2009;124:1281-6.

# BIRTH to BOOSTERS

"A parent's guide for child passenger safety seats"

## Resources

**Automobile Club of Southern California**  
AAA.com/carseatsafety  
SafeSeats4kids.AAA.com

**American Academy of Pediatrics**  
healthychildren.org

**California Highway Patrol**  
www.chp.ca.gov

**California Department of Public Health**  
For car seat education in local area:  
cdph.ca.gov

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)**  
nhtsa.gov

**SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.**  
www.carseat.org

**Safe Kids Worldwide**  
www.usa.safekids.org

**To check for car seat recalls, go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov)**



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