



Stages of Buckling-Up

The following are the four stages for buckling up while riding in a motor vehicle with best practice recommendations. Car seats are now designed with greater height and weight limits, so children can remain in the safest position longer (rear-facing for example). Always follow the height and weight recommendations according to the car seat manufacturer and vehicle instructions.

Never rush to advance your child to the next stage. Follow height and weight recommendations of your car seat.



Stage 1: Rear-facing

Starting from Birth to 3-5 years

(Use until child reaches the maximum height or weight of car seat)



Stage 2: Forward-facing

Starting from 3-5 to 6-7 years

(Use until child reaches the maximum height or weight of car seat)



Stage 3: Booster Seat

Starting from 6-7 to 10-12 years

(Use until the child reaches maximum height or weight of booster)



Stage 4: Seat Belt

Starting from 10-12 years

(Lap belt on lap and shoulder strap crossing center of chest)

SAFETY ALERT: When infants and toddlers are advanced to a forward-facing position too soon, it increases their risk for neck and traumatic brain injury or death during a car crash. Keeping children rear-facing longer, according to the car seat height and weight recommendations, provides them with proper head and neck support they need to be safer during a car crash.



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