



One Minute Safety Check

Forward-facing Car Seats



✓ Do you have the instructions for your child's car seat?

- TIP * Read the instructions that came with your seat. Follow them carefully and keep them with the car seat. You will need them as your child grows.

✓ Is your child facing the right way for both weight and age?

- TIP * Do not be in a hurry to turn your child to face forward. It is O.K. for the child's feet to touch the vehicle seat back. The risk of injury is low, with fewer long term complications.
- * The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children rear-face until age 2 or more.
- * Convertible and 3-Stage seats can be used rear-facing until 13.6 to 22.7 kg (30-50 lb.), depending on the model. It is safer for children to ride rear-facing as long as possible, until they reach the rear-facing weight of their Convertible or 3-Stage seat **or** the top of the head is 2.5 cm (1 in.) below the top of the seat. Then, they can be turned forward.

✓ Have you checked your vehicle owner's manual?

- TIP * Your vehicle owner's manual has information about air bags, seat belts or the Universal Anchorage System (UAS) and tether anchors.
- * Do not install the car seat in a front seating position that has an active air bag.
- * Children 12 and under are safer in the back seat.
- * For side-impact air bags in the back seat, follow the vehicle manufacturer's instructions.

✓ Is the vehicle seat belt or Universal Anchorage System (UAS) tightened properly?

- TIP * Thread the seat belt or UAS belt through your car seat's forward-facing belt path.
- * When tightening the belt, push the seat down and into the upholstery.
- * The car seat should not move more than 2.5 cm (1 in.) toward the front of the vehicle or side-to-side where the belt is attached.

✓ Is the forward-facing car seat tethered?

- TIP * When a car seat is facing forward, the tether strap must be used. It is attached to the back of the car seat and hooks on an anchor in the vehicle.
- * Your vehicle owner's manual has information about the tether anchor locations.

✓ Is the harness put through the correct slots?

- TIP * The harness should be level with, or just *above*, your child's shoulders when the seat is facing forward.
- * Your car seat's instructions will tell you which slots can be used forward-facing.

✓ Is the harness pulled snug?

- TIP * The harness needs to lie flat.
- * You should only be able to fit 1 finger between the harness and your child's chest or you are unable to pinch a fold in the harness at the shoulder.
- * Fasten the chest clip at your child's armpit level.

For more information, go to our website: www.infantandtoddlersafety.ca

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