



## One Minute Shopping Checklist

# Car Seats and Boosters

### ✓ *Is the seat right for your child's weight and height?*

- TIP
- \* Check the weight and height limits of the seat to be sure that it is appropriate for your child.
  - \* Infant-only seats usually provide the best fit for a newborn.



### ✓ *Is the seat right for your child's stage?*

- TIP
- \* It is safer for infants & toddlers to ride rear-facing as long as possible. Convertible and 3-Stage seats can be used rear-facing until 13.6 to 22.7 kg (30-50 lb.), depending on the model. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children rear-face until age 2 or more.
  - \* When forward-facing, Convertible and 3-Stage seats allow a child to be harnessed until at least 18 kg (40 lb.). Most new models go higher - up to 30 kg (65 lb.).
  - \* A child cannot use a booster seat until he or she weighs at least 18 kg (40 lb.).

### ✓ *Have you checked the price and expiry date?*

- TIP
- \* The price of a seat is not an indicator of its safety.
  - \* All seats sold in Canada must meet the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (CMVSS).
  - \* Manufacturers put an expiry date on their seats or in their instructions. Check the expiry date to be sure that the time period will cover your child's needs.

### ✓ *Are the instructions easy to understand?*

- TIP
- \* Read the instructions, both on the seat itself and in the instruction book. Are they easy for you to understand? Do they give clear directions with helpful diagrams?

### ✓ *Is the harness easy for you to adjust?*

- TIP
- \* Different models of seats have different harness adjustment mechanisms.
  - \* You may be tempted not to bother adjusting the harness, if it is difficult. Your child would not be properly secured in crash.
  - \* The level of the harness needs to be changed as your child grows.
  - \* A rear-facing seat should have the harness level with, or just *below*, your child's shoulders.
  - \* A forward-facing seat should have the harness level with, or just *above*, your child's shoulders.

### ✓ *Will the seat fit in your vehicle?*

- TIP
- \* Try the seat in your vehicle before you purchase it. If you are unable to do this, make sure that the store will allow you to return the seat for a full refund if it cannot be properly installed in your vehicle(s).
  - \* 80% of the bottom of the child seat should fit on your vehicle seat.
  - \* Check that there is enough room, front-to-back, if you are using a rear-facing seat.
  - \* If the seat can be used rear and forward-facing, test it both ways.

For more information, go to our website: [www.infantandtoddlersafety.ca](http://www.infantandtoddlersafety.ca)

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