

Child Car Seats: Birth to One Year



Rear-facing child car seats must be used until the child is at least one year old AND weighs at least 10 kg (22 lb.).

It is recommended that children stay rear-facing longer if allowed by the child car seat manufacturer's weight limit.

Types of rear-facing child car seats



Infant seat

- Is used rear-facing only
- Has weight limits that vary depending on the make and model – some go up to 16 kg (35 lb.)
- Has harness straps to secure the child



Infant/child seat (Convertible)

- Can be used rear-facing and then converted to forward-facing when the child is the appropriate age and weight
- Has rear-facing weight limits that vary depending on the make and model – some go up to 20.45 kg (45 lb.)
- Has harness straps to secure the child



Infant/child/booster seat (Three-In-One)

- Can be used rear- or forward-facing with harness straps or as a booster seat with a seat belt
- Has rear-facing weight limits that vary depending on the make and model – some go up to 22.7 kg (50 lb.)
- Has harness straps to secure the child

Installation and harnessing checklist

- ☐ I have read the child car seat instructions and the child seat section of the vehicle owner's manual.
- ☐ I have not used bunting bags or bulky clothing.
- ☐ Harness straps are not twisted.
- ☐ Harness straps are below the child's shoulder level.
- ☐ Child seat faces rear of the vehicle.
- ☐ **Child seat is NOT positioned in front of an active air bag.**
- ☐ Seat belt or Universal Anchorage System (UAS) is in the correct belt path for rear-facing.
- ☐ Child seat is secured tightly by a vehicle seat belt/UAS.
- ☐ Child seat is reclined to a 45 degree angle.
- ☐ A locking clip is used if required.
- ☐ Harness is snug so that no more than one finger can fit between the harness and the child's collarbone.
- ☐ Chest clip is at armpit level.
- ☐ Child is secured in the harness **before** blankets are put over him or her. Never place anything between your child and the child car seat's padding.
- ☐ If needed, rolled receiving blankets are placed on each side of the infant's head for support.



Infant seat placed rear-facing



Harness is adjusted correctly



Rolled receiving blankets support the infant's head

Safety Guidelines

- Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.
- Plan frequent stops when going on long road trips.
- Only use the infant seat for travel in a car, van, or truck.
- When shopping or going for walks, take your baby out of the infant seat and use a stroller or carrying device to transport your baby.
- Never use an infant car seat as a crib.
- When installing the seat, always follow the child car seat manufacturer's instructions and read your own vehicle owner's manual.

This information is written in plain language for use in Canada only and is intended to provide general information only. Nothing is intended to provide legal or professional advice or to be relied on in any dispute, claim, action, demand or proceeding. BCAA does not accept liability for any damage or injury resulting from reliance on the information in this publication. ChildSeat0-1/Oct13

For more information: visit bcaa.com | call 1-877-247-5551 (toll free) | email roadsafety@bcaa.com