



**▶ Keeping Children Safe**

# Facts

**Motor vehicle crashes are**  
**#1 CAUSE OF DEATH**  
 among children

**Child safety seats can**  
**REDUCE FATAL INJURY**

UP TO **71%** for infants  
**54%** for toddlers (ages 1-4).

## Tips on Using Your Car Seat



### Rear-Facing Infant Seat

- Make sure your car seat base is installed at the correct recline angle. Babies must ride sitting semi-reclined so their airways remain open. Most infant car seats have built-in angle indicators to assist you.
- Properly position the harness on your child. Harness straps should lie flat, not twisted. They should be placed through the slots located at or below your child's shoulders.
- The harness is snug enough when you cannot pinch any extra strap material at the shoulder.
- Place the chest clip at armpit level.

**▶ RULE**

Parents must keep toddlers in rear-facing car seats until age 2, or until they reach the maximum height and weight listed for their given car seat model.

### Forward-Facing Car Seat

- Properly position the harness on your child. Harness straps should lie flat, not twisted. They should be placed through the slots located at or above your child's shoulders.
- Buckle the harness and the chest clip, then tighten. The harness is snug enough when you cannot pinch any extra strap material at the shoulder.
- Place the chest clip at armpit level.

**▶ RULE**

Once forward-facing, children should be buckled in a five-point harness car seat system until they either reach age 4 or weigh 40 pounds, whichever comes first.

### Booster Seat

- Have your child sit in the seat and then fasten the seat belt.
- Position the lap/shoulder belt on your child; correctly positioning the lap belt across his/her upper thighs and the shoulder belt across his/her chest.

**▶ RULE**

Most children will need to ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between 8 and 12 years of age.