

Infants Should Be in Rear-Facing Car Seats Until They Are 2 Years Old

or until they reach the height or the weight limit of their car seat.

Virginia law requires infants to ride rear-facing until they are a **minimum** of one year old and 20 pounds.

Route harness straps in lower slots at or below shoulder level.



Keep harness straps snug and fasten harness clip at armpit level.

Has your car seat expired? Check the back or bottom of the seat for the expiration date.

Use LATCH or seatbelt, but not both.

Recline a rear-facing seat at about a 45 degree angle. A firmly rolled up towel under the car seat may help.

Infants must ride in the back seat facing the rear of the vehicle. This offers the best protection for your infant's head, neck and spine.

Make Sure Your Child is Riding Safely.

Below are "To Do" lists for in the car and at home.

In the Car "To Do" List:

- ✓ Attach my car seat using either the seat belt or the Lower Anchors & Tethers for Children (LATCH), but not both.
- ✓ If my car seat is forward-facing, I've attached the top tether strap to the tether anchor.
- ✓ My car seat does not move more than 1 inch side-to-side when I pull on it. (Test it at the belt path—where the seat belt or LATCH belt enters the car seat.)

In the Home "To Do" List:

- ✓ Make an appointment to get my car seat checked by a certified car seat technician. Visit www.safekids.org for information on your closest fitting station.
- ✓ Check to make sure my car seat is not recalled. www.safercar.gov or 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).
- ✓ Mail in my car seat registration card to the manufacturer so any information on recalls will be sent directly to me.
- ✓ I am not using a car seat that has been in a CRASH. For NHTSA's (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) recommendation on use of a car seat after a crash visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/childps/ChildRestraints/ReUse/index.htm> or call your car seat manufacturer.



Toddlers Should Be Forward-Facing Only After They Outgrow Their Rear-Facing Car Seats.

Attach the top tether strap to the tether anchor (tether anchors are available in most cars 1999 or newer).

Read owner's manual for information on which harness slots should be used forward-facing. Keep harness straps snug.



Fasten harness clip at armpit level.

Use LATCH or seatbelt, but not both.

Place car seat in upright position.

Keep Kids in Car Seats Longer: Even kids 4 years old and older should remain in a car seat until they reach the height or weight limit of their car seat. Once reached, then kids can be in a booster seat.