

## Types of car seats at a glance

Age Group	Type of Seat	General Guidelines
<u>Infants/toddlers</u>	Rear-facing only seats and rear-facing convertible seats	All infants and toddlers should ride in a <b>Rear-Facing Car Seat</b> until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer.
Toddler/ <u>preschoolers</u>	Convertible seats and forward-facing seats with harness	All children 2 years or older, or those younger than 2 years who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car seat, should use a <b>Forward-Facing Car Seat</b> with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed their car seat's manufacturer.
<u>School-aged children</u>	Booster seats	All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car seat should use a <b>Belt-Positioning Booster Seat</b> until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age.
<u>Older children</u>	Seat belts	When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use <b>Lap and Shoulder Seat Belts</b> for optimal protection. All children younger than 13 years should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.

### Infants and toddlers—rear-facing

The AAP recommends that all infants should ride rear-facing starting with their first ride **home from the hospital**. All infants and toddlers should ride in a **Rear-Facing Car Seat** until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car seat's manufacturer.

