

# CAR SEAT SAFETY

Less than 1 year old



For more information, please contact the Comprehensive Children's Injury Center (CCIC) at **513-803-RIDE (7433)**.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children remain rear-facing until they reach the upper height or weight limits of their car seat.

## Choosing a Car Seat

### INFANT/REAR-FACING ONLY

- An infant seat usually has a base that you can leave attached in the car and a seat with a carrying handle. A child can use this seat beginning around 4–5 pounds, until 22–35 pounds.
- Once your child weighs more than the limit of the car seat, or when their head gets closer than 1 inch to the top of the car seat, it is time to move them into the next stage of car seat.

### CONVERTIBLE

- Many convertible seats also work well for infants because they can be used beginning at 5 pounds.
- Convertible car seats go both rear and forward-facing in the car and can typically be used longer than an infant seat.

## Using a Car Seat

- When rear-facing, a child's harnesses should be placed at or below their shoulders and the chest clip should be at armpit level.
- The harness should be snug so that you can't pinch excess webbing at the child's shoulders.
- Child's head needs to be 1 inch below the top of the seat.

## Proper Installation is Key

- Before installing the seat, read both your car and the car seat's instruction manuals to make sure the seat is installed properly.
- Make sure to use the LATCH system or the seat belt when installing the car seat — never both.
- Make sure your child's car seat is checked by a certified technician.
- To find a fitting station near you, visit [www.cincinnatichildrens.org/ccic](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/ccic)

**Never purchase a used car seat or use a car seat past the expiration date.**