

Keep Me in a Safe Seat

SAFETY SEAT GUIDELINES



Newborn-2 years

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, Illinois law requires children under age 2 to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system unless they weigh more than 40 pounds or are more than 40 inches tall. Children must remain rear-facing until age 2.

Children riding rear-facing may use a rear-facing-only car seat or a convertible car seat installed rear-facing. Always follow the car seat manufacturers harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a rear-facing installation.



Ages 2-4

Children should remain rear-facing as long as possible and may be transitioned to a forward-facing car seat with an internal harness system. Always follow the car seat manufacturers harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a forward-facing installation. Children should be secured in a forward-facing seat with an internal harness system until they reach the upper height or weight limit allowed by the seat manufacturer.

A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limit a child's forward movement during a crash.



Ages 4-8

When children outgrow the forward-facing seat, they may transition to a belt-positioning booster seat.

A belt-positioning booster seat positions the seat belt so it fits properly over the stronger parts of a child's body.



Ages 8-12

Children should stay in a belt-positioning booster seat until they can fit properly in an adult lap/shoulder seat belt.

An adult lap/shoulder seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.