HELPING HAND™

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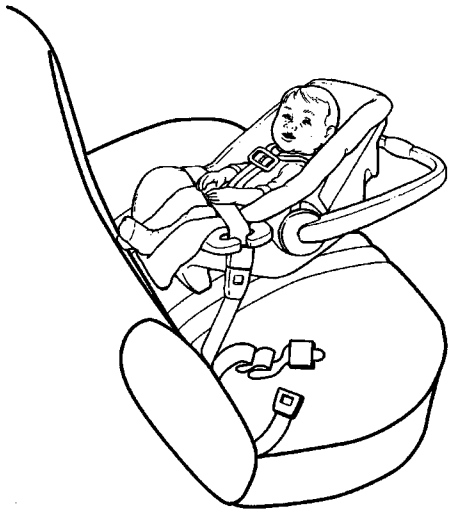
Children's
INSTITUTE FOR
PEDIATRIC EDUCATION
Supporting The Mission of Children's Hospital, Inc., Columbus, Ohio

CAR SEAT SAFETY

In Ohio, the law states that all children must be restrained in a correctly used child safety seat until they are **four** years of age and weigh at least **forty** pounds.

WHERE IN THE VEHICLE SHOULD YOUR CHILD RIDE?

Never place a rear-facing infant in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger side airbag. This could result in serious injury or death to your child if the air bag inflates. All children under the age of 12 should ride in the back seat. That is the safest place.



Picture 1 Rear-Facing Infant-Only Car Seat.

SHOULD YOUR CHILD RIDE REAR-FACING OR FORWARD-FACING?

- All children should ride rear-facing until they are at least **one year** of age. The reclined, rear-facing position offers the best protection for your child.
- If your child is under the age of one and weighs more than 20 pounds, you should buy a convertible seat that will hold a child up to 30-35 pounds rear-facing.
- If your child is over the age of one, and weighs at least 20-22 pounds he or she can ride forward-facing in a car seat.

HOW TO PLACE A CHILD IN THE CAR SEAT PROPERLY

- Select the correct car seat according to your child's age, weight and height.
- Place the child in the car seat. The child's back and bottom should be flat against the back of the car seat.
- Harness straps should be at or below the child's shoulders (usually the lower two slots) when using a car seat rear-facing.
- Harness straps should be at or above the child's shoulders (usually the top slot) when using a car seat forward-facing.
- The harness straps should fit snugly against your child's body. No more than one adult finger should fit in between the child's collarbone and the harness straps.
- The harness clip should always be at the child's armpit level. The harness clip keeps the harness straps close and snug on the child's shoulders.
- If necessary, support the child's head with folded towels or rolled-up receiving blankets. Never place anything behind the child's back or under the child's bottom.
- Always read and follow your car seat manufacturer's instructions to correctly reroute and tighten the harness straps.

Picture 2 Rear-Facing Convertible Car Seat

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