



Greater Omaha Chapter

Proper Child Safety Seat Use Chart

Buckle Everyone. Children Age 12 and Under in the Back Seat!

Always refer to and follow the specific instructions in the child safety seat owner's manual.

This chart is only to be used as a general guideline.

USES	WEIGHT	SEAT POSITION	TIPS
1st seat. INFANT CARRIER	Birth to 20-30 lbs. Depending on model. By law must remain rear-facing until one year old and 20 pounds.	Rear-facing only	Keep straps at or below shoulders. Keep child safety seat at a 45° angle. Ensure the handle is in the proper position for riding in a vehicle. (Check the child seat owners manual)
1st and/or 2nd seat CONVERTIBLE 2 in 1 seat	5-35 lbs when rear-facing. Weight range may be different depending on child safety seat model.	Rear-facing to 30-35 lbs. Forward-facing from 20-50 lbs. Depending on model. Most models to 40 lbs	Keep straps at or below shoulders for rear-facing. Keep child safety seat at a 45° angle. Recommended that child remain rear facing as long as child safety seat allows (rear facing weight limit of the seat). Keep straps at or above shoulders in reinforced slots for forward facing.
1st - 3rd seat COMBINATION Can be 2 or 3 seats in one.	5-35 lbs when rear-facing. Weight range may be different depending on child safety seat model. Forward-facing with harness until the harness weight limit is reached. Weights depend on the model. Most models to 40 lbs. There are some models with a harness weight limit of 65 or 80lbs. If using these you may be able to skip the booster as long as your child passes the 5 Step Test once they outgrow it. Depending on model 30-80 or 100 lbs as a booster.	Rear-facing to 30-35 lbs. Forward-facing	Keep straps at or below shoulders for rear-facing. Recommended that child remain rear facing as long as child safety seat allows (rear facing weight limit) if a 3 in 1 seat. When using as a forward facing seat with harness keep straps at or above shoulders in reinforced slots. Use as a booster when child reaches harness weight limit. When used as a booster remove harness straps and use the seat belt as directed.
3rd Seat BOOSTER ALTERNATIVES to BOOSTER Seats	30-100 lbs. Specific weight range of each seat will differ. There are seats available that have a harness weight limit above 40 lbs and a five point harness is safer than using a booster. You can print a sheet listing these seats from our website. www.SafeNebraksa.org	Forward-facing	Recommend using your seat with as 5 point harness before switching to a booster seat. Belt positioning booster seats must be used with both lap and shoulder belt. When using a booster ensure that the lap belt fits low and tight across the lap/upper thigh area and the shoulder belt fits snug crossing the chest and shoulder to avoid abdominal injuries.
4th Seat VEHICLE SEAT BELT	When child reaches about 4'9" around 80 lbs and eight years old.	Forward-facing	Use the 5-Step test* on the next page to help determine if vehicle seat belt is appropriate.

*5-Step Test

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and the arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

Additional Tips

- **By law** babies must remain rear-facing until **one year old** **and** weigh **20 pounds**. This doesn't mean you have to turn them around at that point. It is best practice to keep your child rear facing as long as their convertible or 3 in 1 combination seat will allow.
- Models with a 5-point harness and front harness adjuster are preferred.
- 5 points of protection are safer than 3 points of protection.
- Straps should be tight enough that you cannot pinch the straps length wise at the shoulder.
- Keep **chest clip at armpit level**, not on the neck or tummy.
- Once installed, the child safety seat **should not move more than one inch side to side or front and back where it is anchored by the belt or lower anchor** (belt path). Be sure to use the correct belt path.
- Generally, the center seating position is the safest place for the car seat. Use this first unless you can not get a tight fit but you can get a tight fit in a side seating (outboard) position.
- **Remember to register your car seat** when you purchase it or anytime you move. Your original registration will not follow your address change unless you re-register your seat.

Car Seat Inspection Stations

Each of these organizations can help you install your car seat and/or check your car seat for correct installation. **By appointment only.** When you call you will need to leave the following information in the voice mailbox and your call will be returned to arrange the appointment.

- Height, weight and age of child or children
- Make and year of automobile(s)

You can also have your seat checked at a car seat check up event. Please visit www.SafeNebraska.org or www.safekidsnebraska.org for event times and locations.

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