

## Are you using the right child car seat?

All children must use an age- and weight-appropriate child seat **until their 9th birthday** unless they have reached the height of 145 cm (4'9") tall.

**All drivers** must ensure **all children** (under 16) are restrained appropriately as described below.

**It's the  
LAW**

### Birth to at least 1 year AND 9 kg (20 lb.)

**Infant and rear-facing infant/child car seats** are for children:

- Starting from their first ride home from the hospital.
- Until they are at least one year old AND 9 kg (20 lb.).



### Over 1 year AND over 9 kg (20 lb.)

**Forward-facing child seats** are for children:

- Who are at least one year old AND 9 kg (20 lb.).
- Until they reach 18 kg (40 lb.).

Children may remain rear-facing if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit.



### Under 9 years AND over 18 kg (40 lb.)

**Booster seats** are for children:

- Who are at least 18 kg (40 lb.).
- Until they are 9 years of age unless they have reached the height of 145 cm (4'9") tall.

Children may remain in a forward-facing car seat with harness if allowed by manufacturer's weight limit.



## Choose the best child car seat for your child

Select a child car seat that:

- Is appropriate for your child's age and weight.
- Meets Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Look for the CMVSS label on the seat.
- Fits your vehicle and can be installed correctly.
- Is easy to use. Look for a child car seat with a harness that tightens and loosens from the front and has an easy-to-use tether strap.



*Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and read your vehicle owner's manual.*

## Install and use the child car seat correctly

### Installing the child car seat

- Never place an infant or rear-facing infant/childcar seat in a vehicle seat with an air bag.
- Install the child car seat in the back seat – in most cases, that’s the safest position in the vehicle.
- Ensure that the vehicle seat belt is routed correctly.
- Tightly secure the child car seat to the vehicle with the seat belt or UAS (Universal Anchorage System). Check periodically to make sure that the belts haven’t loosened.
- Ensure tether strap is attached and tight (applies only to forward-facing childcar seats).



### Harnessing your child (up to 18 kg or 40 lb.)

- Position the harness straps at the appropriate height – **below the shoulders when rear facing; above the shoulders when the child car seat is forward facing.**
- Check that the harness is snug – no more than two fingers can fit between the harness and the baby’s or child’s collarbone.
- Position the chest clip at armpit level.

*Make sure your child is ready before you move him or her to the next stage of protection. Remember, there’s no rush.*

*Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions and read your vehicle owner’s manual.*

### Avoid common mistakes

Results of a Child Passenger Safety Program British Columbia-wide survey reveal that:

- Over half of infant and child car seats are not installed or used properly.
- Half the children who need a booster seat are not using one.

### What are the most common mistakes?

#### Infant and child car seats:

- Seat belt is too loose
- Harness is too loose
- Harness is in the wrong slot
- Tether strap is not secured (applies only to forward-facing child car seats with harness)
- Child put forward-facing before reaching one year of age AND 9 kg (20 lb.)
- Child moved into booster seat too soon (before weighing 18 kg or 40 lb.)

#### Booster seats and seat belts:

- Child put in booster seat too soon (before weighing 18 kg or 40 lb.)
- Child put in the seat belt too soon (before 9th birthday)
- Shoulder belt is behind your child’s back or under their arm

### For more information

- [www.ChildSeatInfo.ca](http://www.ChildSeatInfo.ca) and [www.icbc.com/road\\_safety/carseat.asp](http://www.icbc.com/road_safety/carseat.asp)
- Child Seat Information Line: 1-877-247-5551

