Rear-Facing Car Seats

Use a rear-facing car seat until your child is two years old or reaches the highest weight or height limit allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat. A convertible or 3-in-1 car seat should be used in the rear-facing position for babies who outgrow infant-only car seats.

Forward-Facing Car Seats

Use a forward-facing car seat when your child is two years or older. Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of the car seat.

Booster Seats

Use a belt positioning booster seat when your child’s weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for the car seat. Keep your child in a booster seat until the lap and shoulder belts fit properly, typically between 8 and 12 years old.

Seat Belts

Use a lap and shoulder belt when the seat belts fit your child properly.

All children under age 13 should ride in the backseat.

Always read and follow your car owner’s manual and the manufacturer’s instructions for your car seat when using and installing your car seat. Need help using and installing your car seat or booster seat? Go to safeny.ny.gov/events.htm for a list of car seat inspection stations and events in your area.

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