

Britax carseat reminders:

- Rear facing a seat is outgrown
 - At the weight limit
 - When there is less than 1" of shell above the head (not the headrests, the shell)
- Forward facing the seat is outgrown
 - At the weight limit
 - When the shoulders go over the highest harness position
 - When the tops of the ears go over the top of the headrest
 - When the stated height limit is reached.
- Keep the harness snug, so that you cannot pinch anything horizontally at the shoulder.
- G2/G3: The body pillow can be used at any weight rear or forward facing, for as long as the child is comfortable
- G4: The body pillow must be used to 22 pounds, then removed.

Installation reminders:

- Always check for movement at the belt path only (where the seatbelt or LATCH strap goes through).
 - Check with a firm handshake from the non dominant hand.
 - Look for less than 1" of movement
- Rear facing there may be movement at the head of the seat if it is untethered. That is fine. This seat does allow for rear facing tethering, with the additional tether connector strap
- Rear facing, make sure the angle is acceptable. 45° for a newborn, as upright as 30° for an older child
- Use the lockoff closest to the buckle only, ideally, when doing a seatbelt installation
- Forward facing, always use the top tether

Using the seat:

- Rear facing have the straps at or below the shoulders.
- Forward facing have the straps at or above the shoulders.
- The chest clip sits so the top of it is even with the top of the armpit.
- Make sure the harness is tight, nothing can be pinched at the shoulders (yes, important enough to mention twice).

When it's time to change seats:

- Since **2002** the AAP has recommended to face the rear to the maximum limits of the convertible seat. Nowadays that's 35-50 pounds, and ideally **3-4 years old**.
- Harness forward facing until at least about **6 years old**, when kids have the size and maturity to sit properly in a high back booster.
- Use a high back booster until it's outgrown, usually **8-10 years old**.
- Use a backless booster until the seatbelt properly fits, usually **10-12 years old**. The child must at least have:
 - Seatbelt low on the hips/high on the thighs
 - Shoulder belt across the collarbone
 - Bum is all the way back
 - Knees bend at the edge of the seat
 - Feet reach the floor
 - Child can sit properly for the entire ride
- When in doubt, max it out.

Washington State Law (RCW 46.61.687):

- The law states a child must use an appropriate restraint until **8 years old or 4'9"**.
- The law states that a child must use an appropriately fitting seatbelt until **age 16** (when the adult seatbelt law takes over), or use a proper restraint.
- Children must sit in the backseat, when practical to do so, until their **13th birthday**.

Four Ps:

- Planes: Always buy a ticket for your child, and use a carseat until 40 pounds, as per the FAA recommendations
- Pets: Secure any pets. Dogs and cats can use a hardware mounted gate, or use a crate, dog harness, or soft crate in the footwell.
- Projectiles: Anything not buckled down will become a projectile in a crash. Use compartmentalization or tying down to prevent objects from flying. If you would throw it at your baby's head, it's safe to have loose.
- Puffy coats: Do not put anything thick between baby and the harness and the seat. Nothing more than a fleece or sweater (the same goes for adults). A puffy coat, blanket, or added snuzzler can move the harness out of proper position, and add space that will compress in a crash, leading to increased chance of ejection and injury.

Did you know that turning on your headlights decreases your chances of a crash by 5%-10%? You're more visible.

All of the information given today is specific to your car and carseat. Please keep this in mind when sharing or receiving information.