

Chicco Keyfit carseat reminders:

- Rear facing a seat is outgrown
  - At the weight limit
  - When there is less than 1" of shell above the head or at 30" overall height
- Keep the harness snug, so that you cannot pinch anything horizontally at the shoulder.
- The infant body pillow must be used until the child's shoulders are at the bottom slots without it, and removed no later than **11 pounds**
- The headrest must be removed when the child's straps move to the third slot. The headrest stays in the slot above the harness straps.

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. That is fine.
- Rear facing, make sure the angle is acceptable. 45° for a newborn, as upright as 40° for an older child
- Use the lockoff on the shoulder belt side only when doing a seatbelt installation

Using the seat:

- Rear facing have the straps at or below 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).
- *Never put an infant seat in the seating area of a shopping cart.*

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%?

All of the information given today is specific to your car and carseat. I may tell your neighbor the exact opposite tomorrow and have it be correct for their car and carseat.