

Diono convertible carseat reminders:

- Rear facing a seat is outgrown
 - At the weight limit (R100=40 pounds, R120/RXT/GTX/Olympia=45 pounds, Pacifica/Rainier=50 pounds)
 - When there is less than 1.5" of shell above the head, or 44" is reached
- Forward facing a seat is outgrown
 - At the weight limit (R100=65 pounds, R120/RXT/GTX=80 pounds, Olympia=70 pounds, Pacifica/Rainier=90 pounds)
 - When the top of the ear goes over the top of the shell
 - When 57" is reached
- Keep the harness snug, so that you cannot pinch anything horizontally at the shoulder.
- The booster is outgrown when the seatbelt starts to move off of the collarbone, generally about the same time as the harness is maxed out.
 - The Olympia and Pacifica are on the IIHS Not Recommended list for boosters, and the RXT and Rainier are outgrown in booster mode at the same time as harnessed mode.

Installation reminders:

- Always check for movement at the belt path **only** (where the seatbelt or LATCH strap goes through, not the armrest above).
 - Check with a firm handshake from the non dominant hand.
 - Look for less than 1" of movement
- Forward facing make sure the seat is tethered. If you do not have tethers, see about getting them retrofitted.
- Under 40 pounds forward facing use the Safe Stop.
- Rear facing the rear facing foot **MUST** be used. Pool noodles or towels cannot be used to recline the seat further or instead of the foot.
- Rear facing there may be movement at the head of the seat. That is fine.
- Rear facing, make sure the angle is acceptable, equal to or less than 45°.
- Lock the seatbelt (pull the seatbelt out slowly at the shoulder, or there is a lock at the buckle, it varies by vehicle), or use a locking clip.
- Tethering rear facing is optional with this seat. Use the D ring to make a rear facing tether point.

Using the seat:

- Rear facing have the straps at or below the shoulders.
- Forward facing the straps should be at or above the shoulders until the shoulders go over the top slot, which is allowed.
- 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).
- The headwings on the RXT/GTX/Rainier stay up until the child is on the third slot AND they're even with the jawline.
- The Angle Adjuster can be used when a child has head control and can sit upright unassisted.

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.