

A Special
Supplement to

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Car Care

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Driving tips to keep baby safe

There is nothing quite like the excitement of having a new baby in the family. There also is nothing that changes a parent's life more dramatically — from daily routines to the kinds of products that are necessary to keep the baby safe and comfortable.

One product that every parent who drives must have is a child car seat. All car seats manufactured today must be designed to meet a safety standard.

Are you using your child's car seat correctly? The Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) encourages parents and caregivers to ask themselves this question to aid in the proper installation of car seats. An alarming number of car seats are installed incorrectly and some parents unknowingly may put their child at risk.

To help stress the importance of installing a car seat correctly, the association encourages parents and other caregivers to take time, each time, to consider the following items.

Check the Seat

- The back seat is the safest place for a car seat.
- Never place a rear-facing car seat in a position with an active air bag.
- Secure the car seat tightly, allowing as little movement as possible at the base of the car seat.

Check the Child

- The harness straps must go over the child's shoulders and lie flat against the child's chest.
- The harness clip should lie flat at armpit level.
- Allow no more than one finger to fit between the harness strap and the child's shoulders.

Check the Age/Weight Guidelines

- Up to 1 year and 20 pounds: Use a rear-facing seat.
- At least 1 year and up to 30 to 40 pounds: Use a forward-facing seat.
- More than 30 to 40 pounds: Use a booster seat.

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