

Child Safety Seats for Premature and Low Birth Weight Infants

In order to adequately protect infants and children from the devastating effects of a motor vehicle crash, they must use a properly installed child safety seat that is approved for their weight and height. The weight and height range are indicated by each safety seat manufacturer on the label and in the instruction manual.

The majority of car seats on the market will hold an infant weighing more than 5lbs. However, it can be a challenge for parents to find a car seat that will hold an infant weighing less than 5lbs. Below is a list of some car seat models that can be purchased that will accommodate smaller infants.

model	weight	height	average cost
Britax Chaperone	4-30 lbs.	Up to 32"	\$229.99
Chicco KeyFit	4-22 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$300
Chicco KeyFit 30	4-30 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$180-\$190
Combi Navette 22	Birth-22 lbs.	Up to 29"	\$65
Combi Shuttle 33	Birth-33 lbs.	Up to 33"	\$170-\$180
Combi Shuttle 35	Birth-35 lbs.	Up to 33"	\$199
Cosco Comfy Carry	4-22 lbs.	Up to 29"	\$59
CYBEX Aton	4-30 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$189.95
Dream on Me/Mia Moda	4-22 lbs.	Up to 29"	\$119-\$139
The First Years Via	4-22 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$139.99
The First Years Via 35	4-35 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$169.99
Graco SnugRide 30	4-30 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$119-\$139
Orbit Baby G2	4-22 lbs.	19"-29"	\$400
Safety 1st Comfy Carry	4-22 lbs.	Up to 29"	\$69
Safety 1st Comfy Carry Elite	4-22 lbs.	Up to 29"	\$75
Safety 1st OnBoard 35	4-35 lbs.	Up to 32"	\$99
Safety 1st OnBoard 35 Air	4-35 lbs.	Up to 32"	\$159-\$179

This table may not be all inclusive and does not imply product endorsement (Updated 9/2011)

TIPS

Install the car seat rear-facing in the back seat and never in front of an airbag.

Keep child in a rear-facing safety seat as long as possible, until they reach the weight and height limit for the seat; usually around age 2.

Recline the car seat according to the manufacturer's instructions (normally 45 degree angle) to prevent the baby's airway from closing.

If possible, an adult should ride buckled up in the back seat with a very small infant and limit travel to only necessary trips.

Use small rolled blankets beside the baby's body and head to keep them centered. If necessary, place a rolled washcloth or burpcloth behind the crotch strap to prevent slumping. Never put blankets or padding under baby or between baby and the harness straps.

Car seats should only be used for travel and not as a sleeping area. Infants are at an increased risk of SIDS when they sleep for long periods in a car seat.

Secure medical equipment by wedging it on the floor or under the vehicle seat.

Travel with a medical care plan that lists any known conditions and contact information of assigned health care providers.

Virginia Department of Health
Child Passenger Safety Program
www.safetyseatva.org
1-800-732-8333

