

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 5lbs or more. This can make it challenging 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 B-Safe 35	4-35 lbs	Up to 32"	\$210
Chicco KeyFit	4-22 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$180
Chicco KeyFit 30	4-30 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$200
Combi Shuttle	Birth-35 lbs.	Up to 33"	\$120
Cosco Light 'n Comfy 22 Carry LX	4-22 lbs.	Up to 29"	\$90
CYBEX Aton	4-32 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$250
CYBEX Aton 2	4-35 lbs.	Up to 30"	\$275
Doona	4-35 lbs.	Up to 32"	
Graco My Ride 65 Convertible	4-65 lbs.	Within shell	\$120
Graco SnugRide Snug Lock 35 XT	4-35 lbs.	Up to 32"	\$170
Evenflo LiteMax	4-35 lbs.	Up to 32"	\$120
Maxi Cosi Mico Max 30	4-30 lbs.	Within shell	\$250
Safety 1st Light 'n Comfy Carry	4-22 lbs.	Up to 29"	\$80
Safety 1st OnBoard 35	4-35 lbs.	Up to 32"	\$130
Safety 1st OnBoard 35 Air	4-35 lbs.	Up to 32"	\$160

This table may not be all inclusive and does not imply product endorsement (Updated 1/2019)

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



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 burp cloth 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.