



## Child Passenger Safety Seat Checklist: Toddler to Young Child in Forward-facing Position (2-7 years)

The information below is a general reference. Read the manual for your safety seat for more information.

Check Point	What to look for	Other tips
Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety seat with a 5-point harness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convertible safety seat</li> <li>- Forward-facing safety seat</li> <li>- All-in-one safety seat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child must fit within seat based on age, height, and weight limits.</li> <li>- Many forward-facing seats have upper weight limits of 50-65 lbs.</li> <li>- Check expiration date and register seat.</li> </ul>
Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forward-facing</li> <li>- Law- rear-facing until age two or meets minimum weight requirement to be forward-facing</li> </ul>	<b>Best Practice – keep child rear-facing as long as possible; child must fit in limits of safety seat.</b>
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install in back seat of vehicle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If there is no back seat in the vehicle, can install in front seat as long as airbag turned off.</li> </ul>
Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seat belt or LATCH</li> <li>- Use correct belt path</li> <li>- Seat does not move more than one inch when tested at belt path.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Test by pulling and pushing seat from left to right and front to back.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Use top tether</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety seat manual may encourage installing safety seat with the seat belt because of LATCH weight limit (65 lbs).</li> <li>- Information for belt path is on the safety seat.</li> <li>- Tether anchor locations will be in vehicle owner’s manual.</li> </ul>
Harnessing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shoulder straps are AT or ABOVE the shoulders.</li> <li>- Crotch strap is close to body, not underneath child.</li> <li>- Harness is snug; you cannot pinch harness material together at shoulder.</li> <li>- Retainer or chest clip is across the chest               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Align retainer clip with armpits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Place items to keep a child warm over top of the snug harness. This includes puffy jackets, bulky sweaters, and blankets.</li> </ul>

### Where to find help

- [www.safetyseatva.org](http://www.safetyseatva.org) to find a Safety Seat Check Station for installation education.
- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/search-safety-issues#recall> for vehicle or safety recalls
- 1-800-732-8333 or [ivp@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:ivp@vdh.virginia.gov) with general questions
- 1-800-755-0912 for the National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs.



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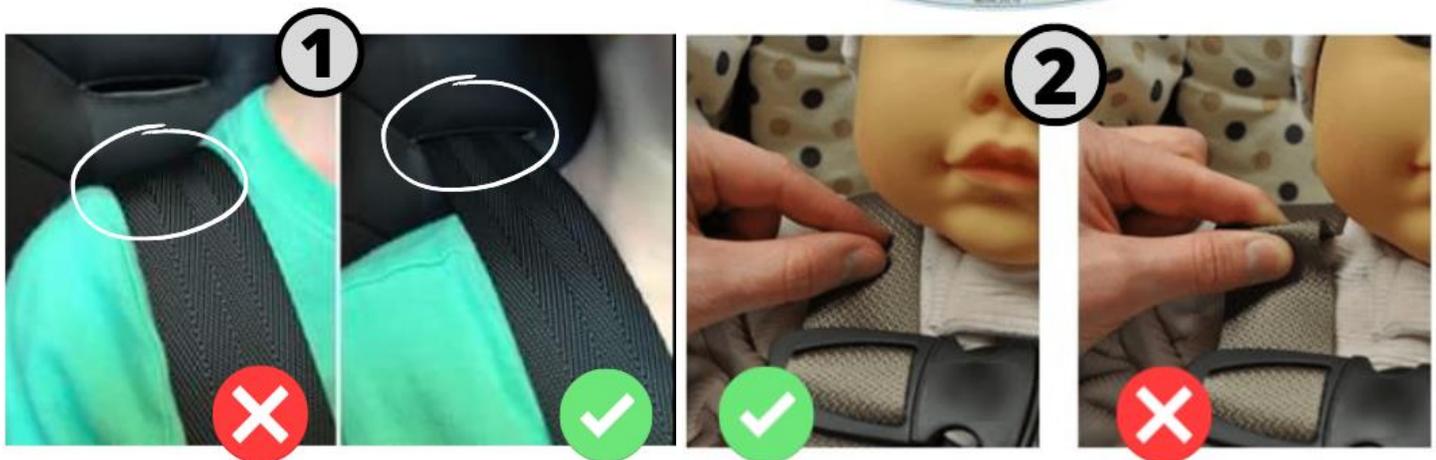
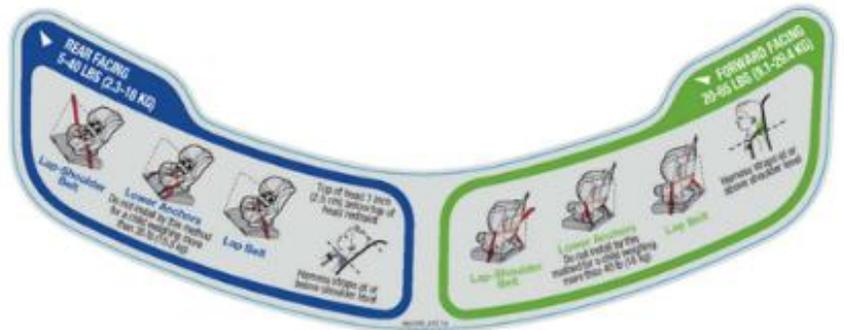


## Best practices for injury prevention:

Rear-facing is the safest position for a child but safety seats have height and weight limits. Once a child outgrows the rear-facing safety seat, start using a forward-facing safety seat with a five-point harness. The harness protects the child in a crash by holding them in the seat. The harness spreads the crash forces across a larger area than a seat belt. The tether helps to reduce forward motion of the safety seat. This helps to reduce the risk of the child hitting their head. Use a forward-facing safety seat until the child outgrows it by height or weight. Be sure to set a good example by making sure all passengers buckle up for every trip, every time.

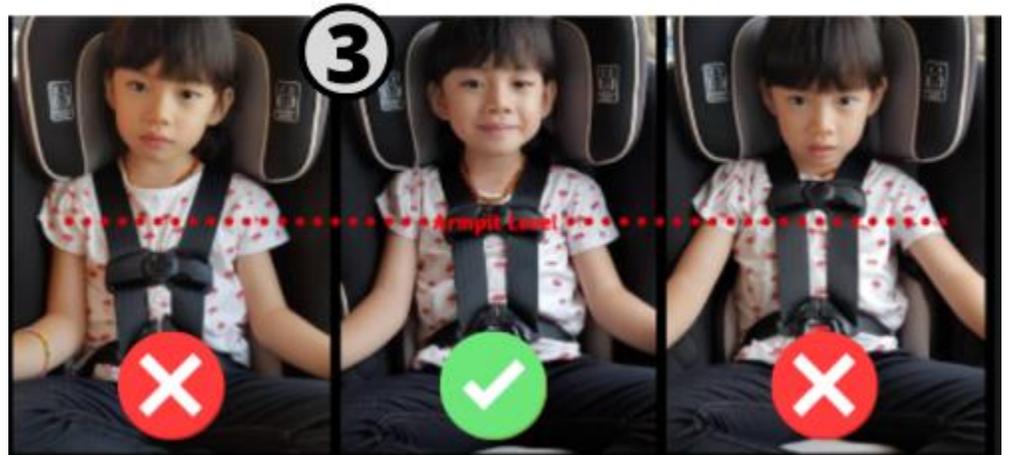
## Installation Tips:

The safety seat instruction manual and labels on the seat (see example to right) provide information for proper use of the safety seat. Information includes seat positioning directions, expiration date, belt path, and height and weight limits.



## Harnessing Tips:

The shoulder straps are positioned AT or ABOVE the shoulders (1). The harness material is not twisted (1, 2 & 3). The harness is snug and cannot be pinched into a fold at the shoulders (2). The retainer or chest clip is at armpit level (3).



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