

# TYPES OF CAR SEATS

## STAGE 1 Infant



Birth to approx 1 year old  
0 – 10kg (Group 0)  
0 – 13kg (Group 0+)  
45cm – 75cm

A dedicated infant seat (also known as a capsule or infant carrier) is the safest way for at least the first 6 – 9 months because of the specific design and recline for an infant.

For premature or very low birthweight babies consider a lie-flat or near lie-flat car seat option which will lower the risks for positional asphyxia.

The correct fit is essential to avoid head flop and blocking the airways of the baby. If you are struggling with head flop, try install the infant car seat without the base (if manual allows this) as the base sometimes causes the car seat to be too upright which is what causes head flop.

## STAGE 2 Toddler



Approx 9 months to 4 years  
9kg – 18kg / 25kg (Group 1 / 2  
RF or FF)  
75cm – 105cm

New standards stipulate Rear Facing (RF) to a minimum of 15 months old, but it's safer to keep RF to at least 2 years old, preferably 4 years old & older if possible. Max out the car seat weight / height limits.

Most car seats offer harnessed Rear Facing to 13kg or 18kg (There are a few that can harness RF to 25kg - 36kg).

Your child should remain harnessed until they meet the minimum requirements to move to Stage 3. Children with special needs may need to remain in a harnessed car seat for longer.

There are only a few car seats available that harness Forward Facing (FF) to 25kg.

## STAGE 3 Child



Approx 3 to 12 years  
15kg – 36kg (Group 2 / 3)  
100cm – 150cm

A child should only transition to a high back booster (HBB) when they are over 15kg, 100cm (1m) tall and are mature enough to sit correctly in their HBB for the entire ride

A child must ride in a high back booster to ensure that crucial head and side impact protection is provided.

High Back Boosters ensure the correct and safe vehicle seatbelt fit for a child's body. This keeps the shoulder strap, correctly positioned over the shoulder (not the neck), across the sternum and the lap belt positioned over the top of the thighs (not the abdomen). Children must remain in a HBB until they are 150cm tall which is between 10 - 12 years old.

## MULTISTAGE 1 / 2 OR 2 / 3 OR 1 / 2 / 3



Group 0, 0+, 1, 2, 3  
2-in-1: Infant & toddler  
2-in-1: Toddler & booster  
3-in-1: Infant, toddler & booster

This type of seat combines more than one stage into one seat. Most multi-stage car seats don't offer a good and safe fit for newborns - inserts positions the baby outside the shell of the car seat offering no side impact protection.

We highly recommend to start with a dedicated infant car seat and baby can then later be moved to a toddler or multi-stage car seat, but keep baby Rear Facing to at least 2 years old OR as long as possible.

Harness in multi-stage seat to 18kg / 105cm and then convert to high back booster mode to 25kg/36kg/50kg or 150cm (car seat dependent - please check your manual).

## VEHICLE SEATBELT



12 years old Plus  
1.5m tall (150cm) Plus

A child can safely start using the vehicle seatbelt like an adult does when they are 1.5m (150cm) tall and meet the following criteria:

- back against the vehicle back rest
- knees bend at the edge of the vehicle seat
- shoulder belt across shoulder, not neck
- lap belt across lap, not abdomen
- mature enough to sit still for the duration of the ride

Keep children under 12 years old & 150cm tall on the vehicle back seat buckled-up in the appropriate car seat or HBB for their weight & height. From 12 years old and older (150cm +) they may sit on the front passenger seat with an active airbag.