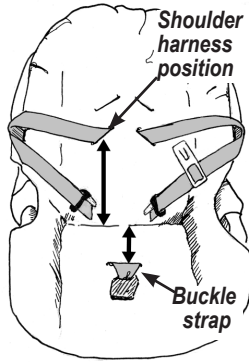


Checking harness fit

Look for a harness that can be set up to fit a small body. Take a tape measure when you shop, and check the:

- **Shoulder harness:** Put the straps in the lowest position. They must go through the car seat at or below baby's shoulders. If they do not, try a different car seat. For most newborns, the lowest



position should be less than 8 inches up from the bottom cushion. For tiny babies, look for one as low as 5 or 6 inches.

- **Buckle strap:** Look for one that is less than 5 inches forward of the back cushion. Many straps can be adjusted.

Resources

National Center for Safe Transportation of Children w/ Special Health Care Needs: 800-755-0912, www.preventinjury.org (Look under Special Needs)

AAP Clinical Report: "Safe Transportation of Preterm and Low Birth Weight Infants at Hospital Discharge." <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/127/3/424>

National Vehicle Safety Hotline: Recall and general safety questions, 888-227-9228 or 800-424-9153 (tty), www.safercar.gov

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.: Questions, recall list 800-745-7233, www.carseat.org

Find someone to help: 866-732-8243, www.seatcheck.org (select Inspection under Installation Help) or <http://www.cerksafekids.org> (select Find a Tech)

Car Bed Information:

Dream Ride LATON (Dore Juvenile)
Call for information: 800-544-1108

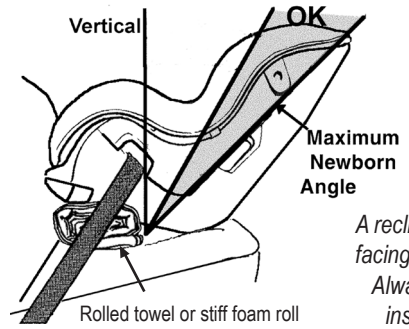
Hope Car Bed and Angel Ride Car Bed (Merritt Manufacturing)
www.eztether.com, 317-409-0148

Distributors:

Mercury, www.mercurydistributing.com
Prevention Alternatives, 517-927-7731,
or email shinn@comcast.net

Correct car seat use

- Limit time baby spends traveling.
- Do not use the car seat in the home.
- Dress your baby in clothes with legs so the buckle strap fits between the legs. It is not safe for thick clothing or blankets to be under the straps. If using a blanket, put it **over** the straps.



A reclined rear-facing car seat. Always follow instructions.

- Don't add padding *under* or *behind* your baby. It makes the harness too loose, so your baby could be thrown out in a crash. Do use the pads that come with your car seat. Remove them only when the instructions say you should.

- Put the shoulder straps in a position at baby's shoulders or just below. If the lowest position goes through the car seat above the baby's shoulders, use a different car seat.

- Put baby's bottom all the way back in the car seat. Don't let baby slouch.

- Place the harness on baby as shown in the instructions. Make it snug against all parts of baby's body. **Remember that you cannot pinch any slack in the straps** (picture right).



Pinch test for snug straps

- Put the chest clip at armpit level. If it touches the neck of a tiny baby when placed there, move it down slightly.

- If baby needs more support, use small rolled blankets *beside* baby. Roll and tuck the blankets firmly so they do not cover the face or limit breathing. A rolled cloth between the legs may be needed to prevent slouching. (See picture on top of page 1.)

- Install baby's car seat in the back seat of the car. Use the center seat if you can get a good fit there.

- Install the car seat tightly. It should not move more than an inch when pushed near the belt. **ALWAYS** follow car seat instructions and the car manual.

Your baby should sit reclined

not too flat or too upright (see picture above). Be sure baby's chin does not fall forward, which could block his breathing. Baby's head should rest against the back of the car seat.

ALWAYS follow the instructions and the recline guide of the car seat. If it is not possible to make the car seat recline properly in your car, try a different car seat.

Some car seats have a part that adjusts to set the angle. If yours does not, you may need to place a firm roll of cloth or foam under it (picture, above).

Note: Breathing monitors and other heavy items must be secured so they cannot hurt baby in a crash. Use a nearby seat belt, or place items on the floor of the car.

Dangers of Front Air Bags

Place baby in the back seat!

An opening air bag can kill a baby in a car seat or on someone's lap.



Baby's car seat must face the rear and should be in the back seat. But,

if baby does ride in front, the air bag **MUST** be off. Look for an on-off switch or an air bag light on the dashboard.

Learn about the air bags in your car. They protect most riders, but can be a danger to babies. Check the car's owner's manual and warning labels (such as on the car's visors).