



## Steps to install a rear-facing car seat

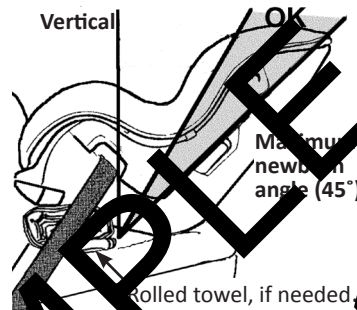
**1. Place the car seat in the back seat, facing the rear window.** The back seat is safer than the front seat in all cars, especially cars with front air bags.

**2. Use the seat belt or LATCH strap to attach the car seat. Make it tight.** If the seat belt or LATCH strap does not hold the car seat tightly, your child could be seriously hurt in a crash.

Always read the instructions that come with the car seat. Also read the sections on seat belts, LATCH, air bags, and car seats in your car manual. Do not use the lower anchors and seat belts at the same time unless both instructions say it is okay.

To check for a tight fit, hold the car seat near where the LATCH strap or seat belt goes through the car seat. Pull forward and side to side. The car seat should not move more than 1 inch. (Do not grab near the top of the car seat to check for tightness. The movement there is okay.)

**3. Make sure your baby is reclined enough** so his head does not fall forward. Always follow any recline guide on the car seat. Also, look for instructions that say how to adjust the car seat to make it recline. For some car seats, a firmly rolled towel or foam roll placed under the car seat may be needed to help it recline.



A. Baby should ride reclined. Follow car seat instructions and labels.

## Bringing your new baby home

**Dress baby in clothes with legs** so the buckle strap can go between the legs.

**Put the shoulder straps in a low position**, at or below baby's shoulders. Put the chest clip at armpit level.

**If baby tends to slide downward**, re-check the instructions to make sure the harness is set up for a small baby. You may need to add a small, called cloth between her torso and the buckle strap (C).

**Any support pad or insert** that came with your car seat should be used, following instructions. Do not put other padding, like a blanket or additional cushion, under or behind baby.

**Tuck blankets along baby's sides** to support her (C), if needed. Roll them firmly so they are not near the face.

**Adjust the harness straps to fit snugly.** You should not be able to pinch any slack (D). Do not use thick blankets or dress baby in heavy clothes. They make it impossible to get the harness snug enough to hold baby in a crash. In cold weather, buckle the harness *first*, and then put a blanket *over* baby.

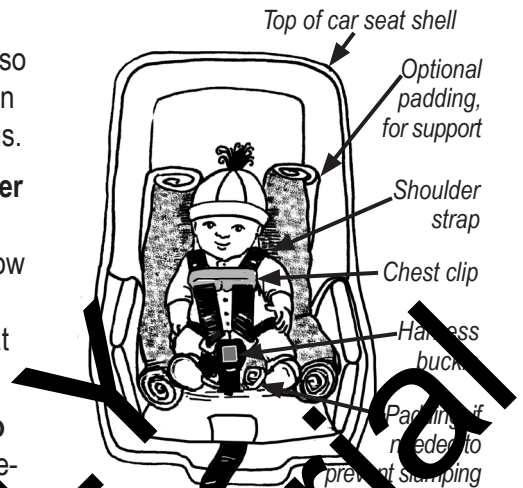
**Sometimes babies cry.** However, **NEVER** take baby out of the car seat while the car is moving. To hold or feed baby, park in a safe place first.

## As your baby grows bigger

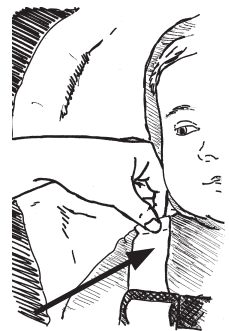
Follow instructions to make the car seat fit as baby grows. Move the harness straps up when baby's shoulders are as high as the next position. A rear-facing car seat is outgrown when:

- Baby's head is less than 1 inch from the top of the seat, or
- Baby reaches the weight limit of the car seat.

Keep baby rear facing as long as possible. This is the best way to protect a child's head and spine from injury. A baby should **NEVER** be faced forward when under 20 pounds or 1 year old.



C. Parts of a car seat. Add padding (shown) along baby's sides and behind the buckle strap if needed.



D. Use the pinch test. If you can pinch a strap, it is not snug enough.

## Air Bag Danger. Put Baby in Back.

A baby riding in front with an air bag (B) is in danger. In even a minor crash, the air bag may open with great force—enough to kill a child. The back seat is safer for all children.

**A baby's car seat must face the rear and should be in the back seat.** If baby does ride in front, the air bag **MUST** be off. Look for an on-off switch or air bag light on the dashboard.



B. Warning: An opening air bag can kill a baby!

Learn about your car's air bags in the owner's manual. Also, read the air bag warning labels in your car.