

Deaconess

Fitting Infant in Car Seat

- Harness straps should be at or below the shoulders.
- Harness should be snug enough that a fold can't be pinched in the webbing above the chest retainer clip.
- Harness should lie flat and snug across the hips.
- The chest retainer should be placed at armpit level. This places it across the breastbone.
- There should be nothing behind the baby that was purchased separate from the car seat. None of these have been crash tested and we don't know what they will do to the fit of the harness straps in an actual crash.
- A receiving blanket may be rolled up and placed on either side of the baby, after they are buckled. It may also be used around their head in a half circle for support.
- A washcloth or cloth diaper can be rolled up and placed between the baby's diaper area and the crotch strap to help keep them from sliding down in the seat.
- It is best to cover the seat with a blanket or seat cover instead of baby wearing snowsuit or thickly padded coat. Babies get overheated and these items get compressed in an actual crash, allowing the baby to be loose in the seat.
- If the parents have a convertible car seat that stays buckled in car, mom needs to be discharged in a wheelchair holding baby.



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Correct Fit of Car Seat in Car

IT IS THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW HOW TO USE THEIR CARSEAT.

- Babies must ride rear facing until at least 1 year of age and 20lb. The longer they are rear facing the more protected they are. The current recommendation is rear-facing until age 2.
- Car seat or base should not move more than 1" in any direction where it is buckled to the vehicle.
- The seat may be secured using the seatbelt or LATCH but not both
- If a locking clip is needed, it should be placed on the seatbelt within 1" of the buckle
- Car seat should be at 30-45° from the ground. All seats have an angle indicator:
 - Line on seat or base
 - Bubble level on seat or base
 - Rolling ball with shaded area
 - Colored angle indicator
- A pool noodle or rolled up towel may be used to achieve the correct angle
- The correct handle position is different for all car seats. Handle must be in a locked position.
- Toys on the handle are really cute but are potentially lethal in an actual crash. The same thing goes for mirrors, unless they are buckled they have the potential to come off and fly into baby.
- The safest place for any car seat is the middle of the rear seat; however this is not always possible if there are other occupants. Never place a rear facing car seat in a front seat with an active airbag!

