

# TRAVEL SAFE

## Choosing Your Car Seat:

- Infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their seat. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear-facing beyond two years old.
- A rear-facing seat provides additional protection to an infant or toddler's developing spine and fragile bones, while supporting their head.
- Older children in the rear-facing position may sit with their legs crossed or touching the vehicle seat back. This may look uncomfortable, but children are very flexible.
- Once they outgrow their rear-facing car seat, children should use a forward-facing car seat with a 5-point harness for as long as possible, until they reach the height or weight limit for their seat.
- When your child reaches the maximum height or weight of their forward-facing car seat, they should transition to a belt-positioning booster seat.
- Keep your child in a booster until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall, usually between 8 and 12 years old.
- All children younger than 13 years old should be restrained in the rear seat of the vehicle.

## Travel Safety Tips

### Never:

- Put an infant in a rear-facing seat in front of an active air bag.
- Place your child in their car seat wearing bulky jackets. To keep warm, place a blanket over their body, avoiding their face.
- Add accessories, such as seat protectors or mirrors, unless allowed by the vehicle and car seat manufacturers.
- Leave a child unattended in the vehicle.

### Always:

- Read vehicle and car seat owner's manuals.
- Check around the vehicle before backing up and be aware of blind spots.
- Set an example and buckle up on every ride.



Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.chop.edu/car-seat-checks](http://www.chop.edu/car-seat-checks) for  
personalized help with your car seat.

To learn more about car seats or CHOP's  
Injury Prevention Program, contact  
267-426-5000 or visit [www.chop.edu/carseat](http://www.chop.edu/carseat)

