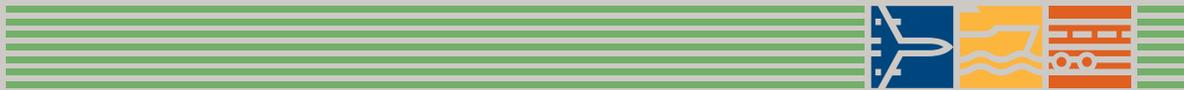




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# Keep— kids safe

**FORWARD-FACING SEATS**

**STAGE**

**2**

[www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/kids](http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/kids)

Forward-facing seats are for older children with stronger back and neck muscles. As long as your child fits within the weight and height ranges of his or her rear-facing seat, it is best to use that seat for as long as possible.

## INSTALL YOUR FORWARD-FACING SEAT

Always install the forward-facing seat in the back seat of your car. This way, your child is as far away as possible from the front seat air bags if they inflate during a crash. You have to install your forward-facing seat with either the UAS belt or the seat belt that are threaded through the back of the child seat **AND** a tether strap at the top of the child seat. **Read your car owner's manual and the child seat user guide** to learn how to install the child seat the right way.

### STEP ONE: ATTACH UAS OR SEAT BELT

Choose the option that keeps the child seat as tightly secured as possible.



#### OPTION 1: UAS

Use the Universal Anchorage System (UAS), if you have it in your car. Your car owner's manual will show you where to find the anchors.

**Important:** If your child weighs over 18 kg (40 lbs), please ask your vehicle manufacturer if your vehicle can support a heavier child with the UAS and tether, or the seat belt and tether.

In most vehicles, this symbol  shows you where to find your car's UAS anchor bars. It also shows you where the connectors are on your new child seat.



#### OPTION 2: SEAT BELT ONLY

Use this option if your seat belts have a built-in locking feature. Check your car owner's manual to see how to lock the seat belt correctly.



#### OPTION 3: SEAT BELT + LOCKING CLIP OR BUILT-IN LOCK-OFF

Use this option if your seat belts do not have a locking feature. Check both your car owner's manual and child seat user guide to see how to use the locking clip or built-in lock-off.

### IMPORTANT TIPS

- Read your car owner's manual to see if you can use the UAS to install the child seat.
- Leave as much space as possible between the child seat and the front seat of your vehicle.
- Items that did not come with your new child seat (such as liners, trays or comfort straps) may not be safe to use. Contact the car seat manufacturer and ask if these items are safe to use with your new car seat.

**STEP TWO: ATTACH TETHER**

Always use the tether strap with forward-facing child seats. Your vehicle owner's manual will show you where to find the tether anchors.

**HELPFUL TIPS**

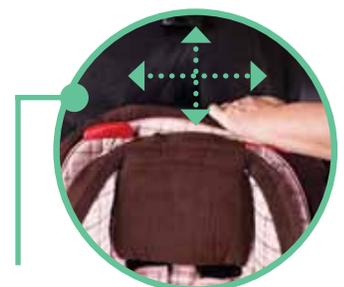
- Use your knee and body weight in the seat and rock the seat from side to side as you tighten the seat belt (or UAS).
- Use your knee and body weight to tighten the tether.

**IMPORTANT TIPS**

- Don't let anything get in the way of the tether strap.
- If there is an adjustable headrest, route the tether strap below the headrest.
- If the tether anchor in your vehicle is in the roof, **remove** the adjustable headrest, and then tether up to the roof. Do not thread the tether strap between the adjustable headrest and the vehicle seat.

**TEST TO MAKE SURE YOUR FORWARD-FACING CHILD SEAT IS INSTALLED CORRECTLY AND TIGHTLY.**

Once installed, hold both sides of the child seat (grab it where the seat belt or UAS belt is threaded through the child seat). Try to move the child seat in all directions. **The child seat should not move more than 2.5 cm (1 inch) in any direction.**



Next, grab the top of the child seat and pull it forward to check the tightness of the tether. **It should not move more than 2.5 cm (1 inch) in any direction.**

## BUCKLE UP YOUR CHILD

**HEAD**

Make sure that the middle of your child's ear is not above the back (top) of the child seat.

**CHEST CLIP HEIGHT**

Make sure the chest clip is at your child's armpit level and closed properly.

**CHEST CLIP TIGHTNESS**

Only one finger should be able to fit between the harness and your child's chest.

**HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT**

Make sure the harness straps are at or just above your child's shoulders.

**When should you move your child from a forward-facing seat to a booster seat?**

Don't hurry. Keep your child in the forward-facing seat until he or she grows out of it. A forward-facing seat spreads the force of a sudden stop or crash over the strongest parts of your child's body. Your child seat user guide will tell you the maximum weight and height for the seat. If your child grows out of the forward-facing seat, there may be another forward-facing seat that may still fit. There are forward-facing seats that are made for children up to 30 kg (65 lbs)!

Even if your child weighs 18 kg (40 lbs) and your provincial/territorial law says you can use a booster seat, your child is safer in the forward-facing seat as long as he or she is still below the child seat's weight and height limits.

**IMPORTANT TIPS**

- Think about buying a forward-facing seat with a higher weight limit so you don't have to put your child in a booster seat too soon. Some forward-facing seats can hold children up to 30 kg (65 lbs).
- By law, kids must be buckled up in a child restraint made for their weight, height and age. Read your provincial/territorial regulations for details.
- If you are not sure that you have installed your child seat correctly, there may be a **car seat clinic** in your community where you can go to have it checked. Your local Health Centre or police station may be able to tell you where and when a clinic is being held in your area.
- Do not leave loose items in your vehicle during a trip, as they may hit and hurt someone in a sudden stop.

**WHEN TO REPLACE A CHILD SEAT**

- Always replace a child seat that was in a car that had a crash. Even if your child wasn't in the child seat when the crash happened, the child seat could be damaged.
- Child seats have **expiry dates** — so make sure you replace yours when it expires.
- If the shell or materials on the seat are torn or damaged, replace the seat.

If you need more information on road safety, please contact us by email at [roadsafety@tc.gc.ca](mailto:roadsafety@tc.gc.ca) or call toll free 1-800-333-0371 (Ottawa area 613-998-8616).