

## Seat Belt

A lap/shoulder seat belt protects a child who fits the adult seat belt correctly (see 5-Step Test).

Most children are at least 4'9" (145 cm) tall before they can safely use the adult seat belt.

### 5-Step Test

When buckled with a lap/shoulder belt:

1. Back: against the vehicle seat, no slouching
2. Knees: bent comfortably over the edge of the seat
3. Lap belt: low on the child's hips, touching the thighs, never on the belly
4. Shoulder belt: touching the chest and crossing between the child's neck and shoulder
5. Stay seated: able to hold this position the entire ride



A child may pass all 5 steps to use a seat belt in one car but still need to use a booster seat in another vehicle.

Make sure your child has support behind the head to the tops of their ears.

Your child is safest in the back seat until they are 13 years old.

### Is your seat safe to use?

Check that your seat is approved for use in Canada.

Look for the National Safety Mark (circle with a maple leaf) on your seat.

- After a collision: A seat involved in a crash may no longer be safe to use.
- Seat history: If you do not know the history of the seat, it may not be safe to use.
- Expiry: Check the expiration date of your seat. Contact the manufacturer if you are unsure.

### Car Seat Installation

Check that you're using the correct belt path for rear or forward facing.

#### UAS (lower anchors):

- Location: Check your vehicle manual to find out where you can use the lower anchors in your vehicle.
- Weight: Check your vehicle manual and your car seat manual to find out what the weight limit is for installing with lower anchors.

#### Seat belt:

- The seat belt must lock in some way. Check in your vehicle manual and car seat manual for directions.
- If the vehicle belt does not lock, a locking clip may be necessary



## Infant & Child Car Seat Safety

This brochure is not intended to replace a car seat, booster seat, or vehicle manual, and focuses on best practice.

**Private car seat checks available!**  
**info@thetinyhumanco.com**



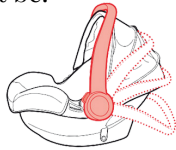
## Rear-Facing Seat

Children are safest using a rear-facing seat for as long as they are within the limits of the seat.



### Seat Installation

- Never install a rear-facing seat in front of an active airbag.
- Always follow the recline angle indicator for your seat; recline fully for a newborn.
- Install with either UAS **or** seat belt
- 1" (2.5 cm) or less of movement at the belt path (where the vehicle belt or UAS secures the car seat to the vehicle seat)
- For a rear-facing only seat (bucket seat), check where the handle must be.



### Harness Fit

- Entering seat shell at or below shoulder level
- Top of straps over shoulders, lower straps over thighs, buckled in between legs
- Tight: cannot pinch a horizontal fold at the collarbone
- Chest clip at armpit level



### Child Fit

- It is safe for the child's legs to touch the back of the vehicle seat.
- The seat is outgrown when the child reaches the height, weight, or fit limits for the seat.
- Many rear-facing seats are outgrown when the top of the child's head is 1" below the top of the car seat.

## Forward-Facing Seat

A forward-facing seat protects a child who has outgrown their rear-facing convertible seat.



Keep your child in a 5-point harness until they weigh **at least 40 lbs (18 kg)** and have the maturity to sit correctly in a booster.

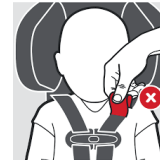
### Seat Installation

- Install with either UAS or seat belt
- 1" (2.5 cm) or less of movement at the belt path
- Always attach the top tether to an approved anchor point in the vehicle.



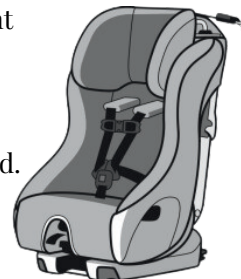
### Harness Fit

- At or above shoulder level
- Tight: cannot pinch a horizontal fold at the collarbone
- Chest clip at armpit level



### Child Fit

- The seat is outgrown when the child reaches the height, weight, or fit limits for the seat.
- Many forward-facing seats are outgrown when the harness straps are no longer at or above the child's shoulders.
- If your child has outgrown their seat by height or weight but is not yet ready for a booster seat, you will need a seat with a harness that will support a taller, heavier child.



## Booster Seat

A booster seat protects a child who is at least 40 lbs (18 kg) and has the maturity to sit correctly in a booster seat. Keep your child in a booster seat until they fit correctly in the adult seat belt (see 5-Step Test).



### Seat

- The child must have head support to the tops of the ears
- Check that the lap/shoulder belt is routed correctly.

### Belt Fit

- Lap belt: low on the child's hips, touching the thighs, never on the belly
- Shoulder belt: touching the chest and crossing between the child's neck and shoulder
- A booster seat must always be used with a lap/shoulder belt and never with a lap-only belt.
- If the shoulder belt does not cross between the child's neck and shoulder, use a booster seat that has a shoulder belt guide.

### Child Fit

- A high-back booster seat can provide better belt fit, comfort, and support than a backless booster seat.
- In order to use a booster seat safely the child must be correctly positioned at all times, even when asleep

