



# Tips for Car Seat Safety in Your Baby's First Year—Fastening the Seat in the Car



The first time you use the car seat, get help from a car seat technician in your area. You can find a technician online at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

- Before you install the car seat, read the instructions that came with your seat. Also read your car's owner's manual.
- Your baby should ride in the backseat and never in front of an active airbag.
- Fasten the seat in the backseat of your car with the seat belt or the LATCH.
- Make sure the car seat is fastened tightly. Hold the seat at the belt path and pull it from side to side and back and forth. The car seat shouldn't move more than an inch in any direction.

## Buckling Your Child in the Car Seat

- Only use the straps that come with the car seat to fasten your child in.
- With a newborn baby, use the lowest slots for the straps.
- Keep the car seat straps snug and flat on your baby's shoulders, not the arms. If the straps are loose, the baby could come out of the seat in a crash and could be badly hurt.
- The chest clip should be at armpit level and rest snugly against the chest.
- Always fasten your baby in the seat before covering with blankets.

After your child's first birthday, periodically check your car seat's weight and height limits. Because seats that face backwards are safest, don't be in a hurry to get the child a seat that faces forward.

