

# Car Seat Checkup

## Top 5 Things to Do at Home



- Right Seat.** This is an easy one. Check the label on your car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height. Like milk, your car seat has an expiration date. Just double check the label on your car seat to make sure it is still safe.



- Right Place.** Kids are VIPs, just ask them. We know all VIPs ride in a back seat, so keep all children in a back seat until they are 13.



- Right Direction.** Keep your child in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by your car seat manufacturer. Many kids will be 2 years or more when they outgrow their rear-facing car seat. Move your child to a forward-facing car seat when they are too tall or heavy for a rear-facing convertible seat. Make sure to adjust the harness straps and attach the top tether after you tighten and lock the seat belt or lower attachments (LATCH) after making the change.



- Inch Test.** Once your car seat is installed, give it a good shake at the base. Can you move it more than an inch side-to-side or front-to-back? A properly installed seat will not move more than an inch.



- Pinch Test.** Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots (check car seat manual). Now, with the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at your child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you're good to go.

Please read the vehicle and car seat instruction manuals to help you with this checklist. If you are having even the slightest trouble, questions or concerns, don't worry. Certified child passenger safety technicians are waiting to help or even double check your work.

Visit [safekids.org](http://safekids.org) to find a car seat inspection event in your community.