



Dartmouth
Health Children's

STAGE 1

Rear-Facing Seat

Car seat Safety Information
for Parents & Caregivers



**SAFE
KIDS**
NEW HAMPSHIRE



1 (877) 783-0432
beseatsmartNH.org

- ✓ **Children are safest riding rear-facing.**
- ✓ **The safest place for children is in the back seat.**
- ✓ **Never place a rear-facing seat in front of an active airbag.**

Keep our children safe by starting with a rear-facing car seat.

- + Children should ride rear-facing until 3 years old or to the limits of their seat, whichever keeps them rear-facing longer.
- + Harness straps at or below the shoulders.
- + Never place an infant-only car seat in a forward-facing position.
- + Check car seat owner's manual for proper fit of harness to child.

Children birth to 3 years, and even older, are less likely to be severely injured when using a rear-facing car seat.

All Harnessed Seats:

- + Check both the car seat owner's manual and the vehicle manual for proper installation.
- + Check labels to determine the correct belt path of the child seat.
- + Use the seat belt or the lower anchors, not both.
- + The seat belt must be locked when used with a car seat. See the vehicle and car seat manuals for instructions.
- + Make sure the seat is secured and snug to the vehicle with less than one inch of side-to-side movement. Check by placing one hand at the belt path and pulling.
- + Place the chest clip at armpit level.
- + Make sure nothing is behind or under the seat or child—no jackets, blankets or bulky clothing.
- + Harness must be flat and smooth—no twists.
- + Harness must be snug. If it can be pinched at the shoulder, tighten the harness.

