*The best child seat is one that fits your child, fits your car and that drivers will use correctly every time.
A child should remain in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember, a child should ride in the back seat if younger than 13 years old.

A seat belt will restrain a child safely in a crash once they are big enough for the lap belt and shoulder belt to fit properly.

In Florida, children ages 4 and 5 must be in a separate carrier, integrated child seat, or booster seat.

Once a child outgrows the forward-facing car seat, it’s time to travel in a booster seat, and should always be in the back seat. If the vehicle does not have a backseat, the booster seat should be used with the air bag turned off.

A booster seat positions the seat belt properly so that the lap belt lies snugly across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt lies across the shoulder and chest.

A child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat’s manufacturer.

Keep a child rear-facing as long as possible. It’s the best way to keep him or her safe. If the vehicle does not have a backseat, the forward-facing car seat should be used with the air bag turned off.

A forward-facing car seat has a five-point harness and tether that limits a child’s forward movement during a crash.

A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for a child under age 2 to use. Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing a child to be rear-facing for a longer period of time. If the vehicle does not have a backseat, the rear-facing car seat should be used with the air bag turned off.

A rear-facing car seat has a harness and, in a crash, cradles and moves with a child to reduce the stress to the child’s fragile neck and spinal cord.

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