

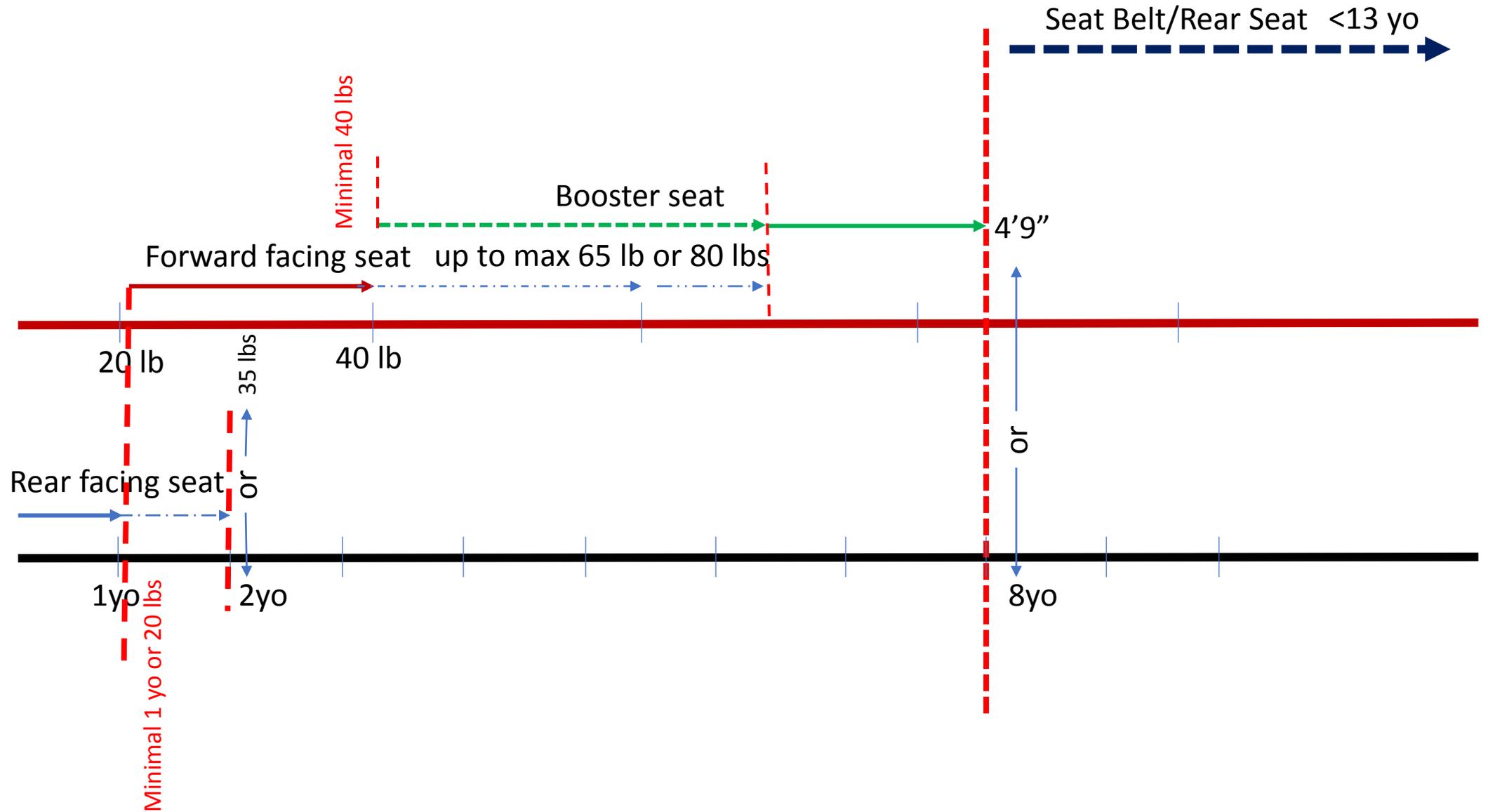
CAR SEAT SAFETY

Child Passenger Safety

AAP Recommendation

Pediatrics 2011;127:788–793

Different Way to understand the car seat recommendation



Make sure your child's safety seat measures up.

Stage 1

Up to 1 year old

REAR-FACING SEATS

From birth to at least 1 year old, up to 35 pounds

For the best protection, keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular safety seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until age 1 and at least 20 pounds.



Stage 2

1-3 years

REAR-FACING OR FORWARD-FACING SEATS

From 1-3 years old, 20 to 40 pounds or more

Children should ride rear-facing for as long as possible. They should remain in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer. When children outgrow their rear-facing seat (at a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds), they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).



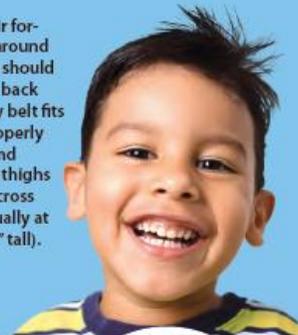
Stage 3

4-7 yrs, up to 4' 9"

BOOSTER SEATS

4 to 7 years old, up to 4' 9" tall

Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle safety belt fits properly. Safety belts fit properly when the lap belt fits low and snugly over the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest and shoulder (usually at age 8 or when a child is 4' 9" tall).



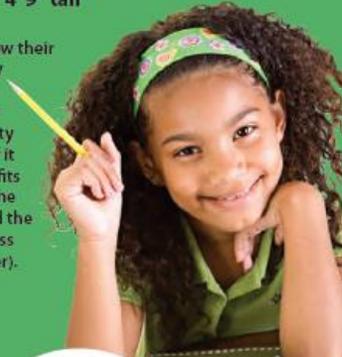
Stage 4

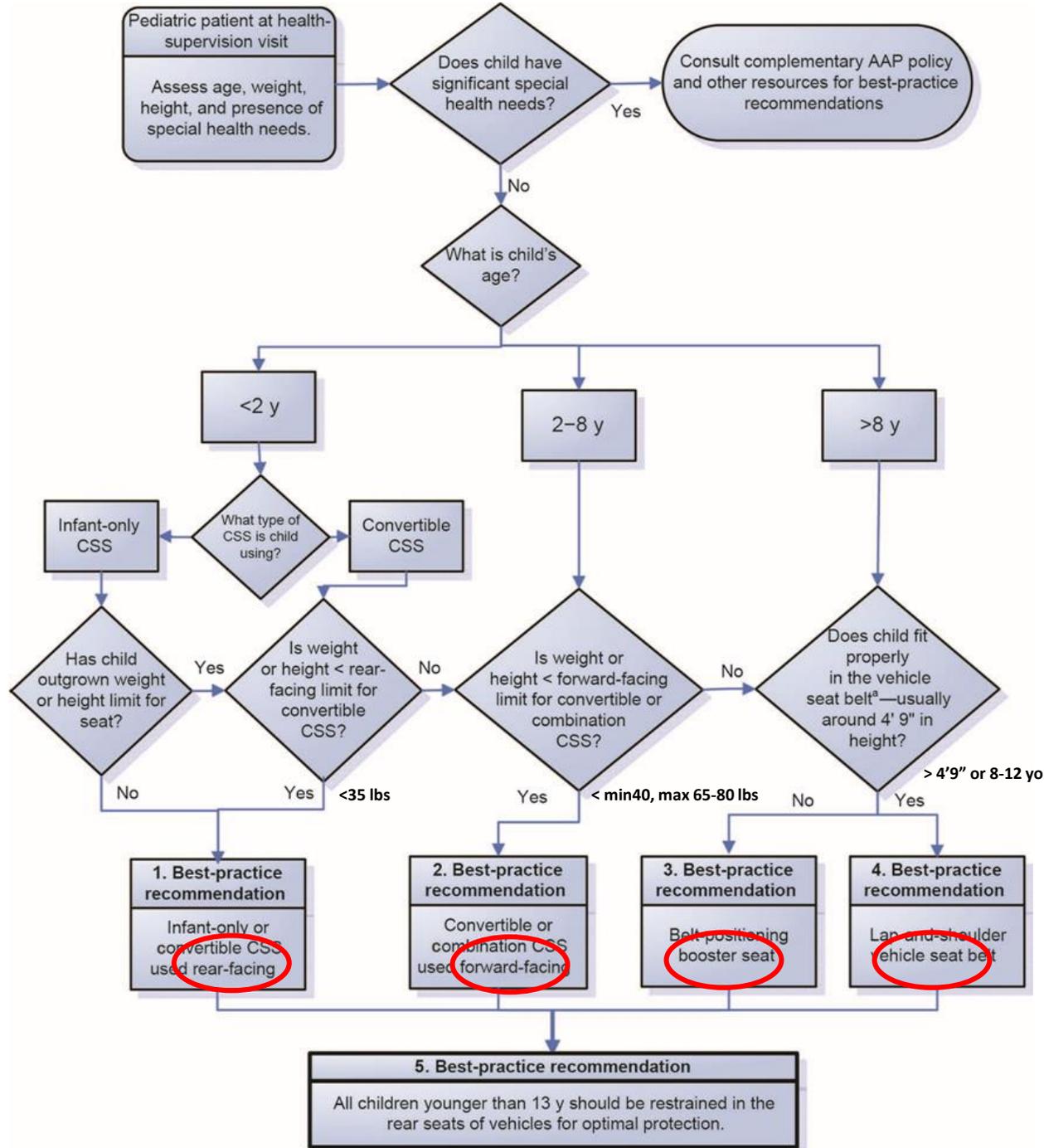
8+ yrs, 4' 9" & taller

SAFETY BELTS

8+ years old, over 4' 9" tall

When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or when they are 4' 9" tall) they can use the adult safety belt in the back seat if it fits properly (lap belt fits low and snugly over the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest and shoulder).





1. Infant-only seats usually have a handle for carrying and can be snapped in and out of a base that is installed in the vehicle.

2. Convertible CSSs can be used either forward- or rear-facing

3. When children using infant-only seats reach the highest weight for their seat, they should continue to ride rear-facing in a convertible seat for as long as possible.

4. Most currently available convertible seats can be used rear-facing to at least 35 lb.

5. Combination CSSs are seats that can be used forward-facing with a harness system and then, as a booster seat with the harness removed.

6. Several models of convertible and combination CSSs can accommodate children up to 65 or 80 lb when used forward-facing.

7. Booster seats function by positioning the child so that both the lap and shoulder portions of the vehicle seat belt fit properly; the lap portion of the belt should fit low across the hips and pelvis, and the shoulder portion should fit across the middle of the shoulder

SUMMARY

1. All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat (CSS) until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of their CSS.
2. All children 2 years or older, or those younger than 2 years who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their CSS, should use a forward-facing CSS with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of their CSS.
3. All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their CSS should use a belt positioning booster seat until the vehicle lap-and-shoulder seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4 feet 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age.
4. When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use lap-and-shoulder seat belts for optimal protection.
5. All children younger than 13 years should be restrained in the rear