

# Carseat Safety

**SAFETY FIRST-** FIRST READ YOUR ENTIRE MANUAL! It is included with every seat & is IMPORTANT! 

- Toddlers are not just small adults; their bodies are still developing and those developmental changes make them more vulnerable than an adult. A toddler's vertebrae are connected via cartilage rather than ossified bone. Those connections are called synchondroses, which are slowly closing over time. These findings show that before age two, none of the cartilaginous spaces have completed ossification. Those pieces of cartilage have the ability to stretch up to two inches. Yet only 1/4" stretch is enough to rupture the spinal column, resulting in paralysis or death.

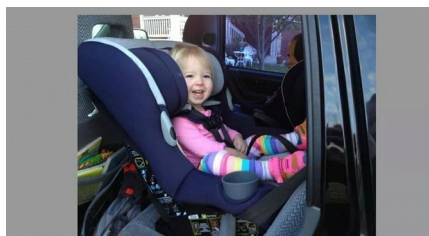


Rear facing is not a choice to be made based on parenting style or opinion; it's one based on scientific fact. The more we know about crashes, the better we're able to protect our kids from severe injury as a result of a crash.



A child's immature spine supports  
A much larger proportion of body weight  
Than an adult's mature spine. The average 9 mo.  
Old's head makes up 25% of his body weight  
An adult's makes up about 6%.

The AAP recommends rear facing until  
Age 2. Most convertible car seats will rear face  
Until age 3-4. Wait to turn your baby around until  
They reach maximum height/weight  
Limits for **safest** practice!



From 12-23 months of age, toddlers are 5 times more likely to be severely injured in a crash if they are forward facing than if they remain rear facing.\*

Rear facing is the safest way to ride!



\*BMJ Injury Prevention, 2007

\*For more info please visit: <http://csftl.org/why-rear-facing-the-science-junkies-guide/>