

# 'Choose right buckle right' to help keep your child safe in the car

## Choose correctly

Choose the right child car seat for each child's age and size. Make sure it is certified to meet the Australian/New Zealand Standard. Make the safest choice by visiting ['Child Car Seats'](#).

## Fit correctly

Install child car seats and booster seats correctly into the vehicle. See an [Authorised Restraint Fitter](#) to check the fit of all rear and forward-facing child car seats and booster seats.

## Use correctly

Ensure straps are straight, not twisted and are clear of the child's face or neck. The fit should be snug, not loose. Buckle up each child correctly on every journey – awake or asleep!

## Check correctly

Check the child car seat harness and/or seatbelt regularly for wear and tear. Have them regularly checked by an [Authorised Restraint Fitter](#), who can also offer advice on when children have outgrown their car seat.



### For babies up to at least 6 months:

Rearward-facing child car seats

### Children up to at least 4 years:

Rear or forward-facing child car seats



### Children up to at least 7 years:

Forward-facing child car seats or booster seats

**Children from 7-15 years** who are too small to be restrained by a seatbelt are strongly recommended to use either a forward-facing seat with an in-built harness for older children, an approved booster seat, or an approved child safety harness in conjunction with the vehicle's seatbelt.

## Five-step test

The five-step test can help assess whether your child is big enough to be safely restrained by a seatbelt. Answering Yes to each step means your child is ready for a seatbelt. The child should be able to:

1. Sit all the way back against the seat back
2. Bend their knees comfortably over the front edge of the vehicle seat
3. Sit with the sash belt across their mid-shoulder
4. Sit with the lap belt across the top of their thighs
5. Stay seated in this position for the whole trip

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