









## Points to remember when you fit a rear-facing infant restraint in your vehicle:

- Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always install a baby's infant restraint so the baby is facing the rear of the car.
- Rear-facing infant restraints should never be placed in the front seat if there is an active front airbag.
- Check your child's restraint fits firmly against the seat and cannot wobble; if your restraint does not fit firmly, seek advice from a registered Child Restraint Technician.

## Points to remember when you put your baby in a rear-facing infant restraint:

- If there is a chest clip, make sure the clip sits at the baby's armpit level.
- The harness must fit snugly against your baby and go over the baby's shoulders.
- Blankets must be put over the baby only after the baby is firmly secured into the harness.
- Babies are better protected travelling in a rear-facing restraint until they are at least two years old.
- Babies have outgrown their infant restraint when they are over the restraint manufacturer's recommended weight or height restrictions.

## Stage 2

## Forward-facing child restraint



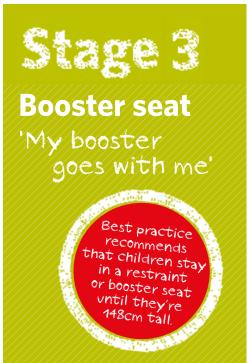
'My restraint goes with me'

## Points to remember when you fit a forward-facing restraint in a vehicle:

- Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- The back seat is the safest place for the child restraint.
- Check your child's restraint fits firmly against the seat and cannot wobble; if your restraint does not fit firmly, seek advice from a registered Child Restraint Technician.
- If your child restraint comes with a tether strap, it must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If your vehicle doesn't have an anchor point for the tether strap to be attached to, have one fitted into your car by a qualified mechanic.

## Points to remember when you put your child in a forward-facing child restraint:

- The harness must fit snugly and comfortably against your child.
- The shoulder harness must always go over the shoulders and be moved up as your child grows.
- Check the manufacturer's instructions for the correct harness shoulder height.
- If there is a chest clip, make sure it is sitting at the level of your child's armpits.
- Children have outgrown their restraint when they are over the manufacturer's recommended weight or height restrictions for that model of forwardfacing child restraint.





### Points to remember when using a booster seat:

- Always carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never, ever use a booster seat with a lap safety belt only.
- The back seat is the safest place for your child's booster seat.
- If you have a booster seat that has a builtin harness system, use the harness until the child reaches the height or weight limit advised in the manufacturer's instructions, and then use the vehicle's safety belt.
- If your booster seat has a safety belt guide, make sure it is used on every trip.
- Make sure the safety belt goes over the child's shoulder and is not resting against the child's neck.
- A full booster seat with an adjustable head rest will provide better protection for your child than a booster cushion.

How do you know when your child is ready to progress from a booster seat to the adult safety belt?

Try this simple test. (If the answer is NO to any of these points, then your child needs to use a booster seat to keep them safe.)

- My child can sit right back on the seat with their legs bent comfortably over the edge.
- The shoulder belt comes over their shoulder, not against their neck.
- The lap part of the safety belt stays low against their thighs, not across their stomach.
- My child can stay seated like this for the whole trip.

## **Child restraints** and airbags

Always check your vehicle's manual and the child restraint manufacturer's instructions for advice on where to install the restraint in relation to the location of the airbags.

### FRONT AIRBAGS

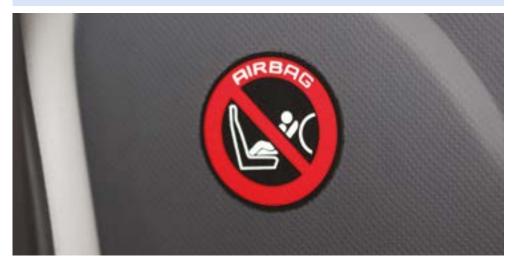
- Rear-facing child restraints must always be placed in the back seat if there is an active front seat airbag.
- If an older child has to sit in the front, move the vehicle seat as far back as possible.

### **SIDE AIRBAGS**

- If you have to install a child restraint directly beside a vehicle door, make sure there are no loose items lying between the child restraint and door.
- Encourage your child not to lean out of the booster seat.

### **BEFORE YOU PURCHASE OR HIRE A CHILD RESTRAINT**

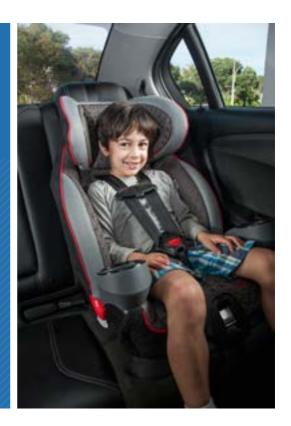
- Make sure the child restraint fits and is suitable for your child.
- Make sure the child restraint fits into your vehicle; not all child restraints fit all vehicles.



# **Child Restraint Technicians**

Retailers and other organisations may have certified Child Restraint Technicians who can provide you with advice and assistance.

Trained Child Restraint
Technicians have
NZ Qualifications
Authority unit standards.



### For more information

on how to safely use child restraints and to find your local Child Restraint Technician, visit the following websites:

www.nzta.govt.nz/childrestraints www.plunket.org.nz www.safekids.org.nz

#### **OUR CONTACT DETAILS**

If you want more information, call our contact centre on **0800 699 000**, email us at **info@nzta.govt.nz** or write to us:

NZ Transport Agency Private Bag 6995 Wellington 6141.

This publication is also available on the NZ Transport Agency's website at www.nzta.govt.nz

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