



# Child Car Seats



[www.rospa.com](http://www.rospa.com)

[www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk)

[www.think.dft.gov.uk](http://www.think.dft.gov.uk)

## Buying a Child Seat : Checklist

When choosing a new child seat, it is essential to ensure that it fits in your car (or cars if you use it in more than one) and is suitable for your child.

Detailed advice on choosing, fitting and using child car seats is available from [www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk) or printed factsheets are available from RoSPA.

You can also obtain information about the safety performance of some seats from surveys conducted by magazines such as "Which", "What Car" and "Mother and Baby". Some seats are tested in the European New Car Assessment Programme (EURO NCAP), so where possible choose a child seat that has scored well in their tests.

Use this checklist to help you select the child seat that is most suitable for your child and your vehicle(s).

### Is the child seat suitable for my child?

It is essential that the child restraint is suitable for your child. Check the packaging before you buy.

My Child's Weight and Age	Suitable Restraint
Child weighing up to 10kg (22 lbs) roughly from birth to 6 -9 months,	Rearward-facing Baby Seat (Group 0)
Child Weighing up to 13kg (29lbs), roughly from birth to 12-15 months	Rearward-facing Baby Seats (Group 0+)
Child weighing 9 - 18 kgs (20 - 40 lbs), roughly from 9 months - 4 years	Forward-facing child seat (Group 1)
Child weighing 15 - 25 kgs (33 - 55 lbs), roughly aged from 4 - 6 years	Forward-facing child seat or/ booster seat (Group 2)
Child weighing 15 - 25 kgs (33 - 55 lbs), roughly from 6 - 11 years	Booster cushion (Group 3)

Is the child Seat suitable for my child? Yes  No



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## Is the Child Seat suitable for my car(s)?

The shape of car seats, the length of seat belts and the position of seat belt anchor points differ between cars. So, not all child seats fit all cars. For instance, the seat belt in a particular car may be too short to go around a certain child seat. It is essential to check that the child seat you purchase will fit in your car and that it will fit in all the seat positions you intend to use it. The manufacturer and retailer should advise you.

**Does the child seat fit on the front passenger seat?** Yes  No

**Does the child seat fit on the rear side seats?** Yes  No

**Does the child seat fit on the rear middle seat?** Yes  No

## How helpful is the Retailer?

Some retailers are very knowledgeable about child restraints, others are not. Try to find a retailer who will let you try the seat in your car first and who will demonstrate how it should be fitted. If this is not possible, make sure you can return the seat, if it is not suitable.

**Will the retailer help me fit the seat?** Yes  No

**Will the retailer let me try the seat before I Buy it?** Yes  No

**Will the retailer let me return seat if it is not suitable?** Yes  No

**Does the retailer provide good advice?** Yes  No

## Does the seat meet the latest safety Standard?

Check that the seat you are buying meets the latest safety standard: ECE R44.03 (look for the E mark).

**Does the seat conform to R44.03?** Yes  No



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## Does my car have airbags?

If your car has an airbag in the front on the passenger's side, you must not use a rearward-facing seat in the front. So make sure, the seat will fit in the rear of your car.

**Does my car have a passenger airbag?** Yes  No

**If so, will the rearward-facing seat fit in rear of my car?** Yes  No

## Are the Instructions easy to understand and follow?

Many people find fitting child seats difficult. The most important thing is to read and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Some instruction booklets are clearly written and well illustrated. Other's are difficult to understand and use. Ask to see the instruction booklet before you buy.

**Are the instructions easy to read and follow?** Yes  No

## ISOFIX

A new child restraint system called ISOFIX is being introduced. ISOFIX points are fixed connectors in a car's structure into which an ISOFIX child seat can simply be plugged. Many new vehicles have ISOFIX points built in when they are manufactured, and child seat manufacturers are beginning to produce ISOFIX child seats which have been approved for use in specific car models.

**Does my car have ISOFIX Points?** Yes  No

**Has the ISOFIX child seat been approved for my specific car model?**

Yes  No