

# Common Car Seat Mistakes

## The shoulder straps are too loose.

- Only one finger should fit between the harness and the child's shoulder. If the harness can be pinched, it is too loose.
- If the harnesses are loose, the child could be ejected from the seat in a car wreck.



## The shoulder straps are at the wrong height.

- If your child is rear-facing, the harnesses should be coming out of a slot at or below the child's shoulders.
- If your child is forward-facing, the harnesses should be coming out of a slot at or above the child's shoulders.
- If the harness is not right, the child will move too much in a car wreck and could be injured.

## The chest clip is in the wrong place.

- The chest clip should be at the level of the child's armpits.
- If placed lower, the child could be ejected from the seat in a car wreck.



## There is too much material around or under the child.

- This prevents the harness from being snug against the child's body. Secure the child in the seat and *then* place a blanket over the baby.
- If the harnesses aren't snug, the child will move too much in a car wreck and could be injured.



## Child has outgrown the car seat.

- Most infant seats only can be used until the baby weighs 22 pounds.
- If the child is too heavy for the seat, the straps may fail to protect the child in a car wreck.



## An infant-only car seat is being used forward facing.

- Infant-only carrier car seats are not designed to be used forward-facing.
- If used forward-facing, your child could be seriously injured in a car wreck.

## The infant seat base or convertible car seat is not installed tightly in the car.

- The car seat should be installed in the car using the seat belt or LATCH lower anchors. It must be tight enough that it does not move more than 1 inch side to side when you tug it at the belt path. Check your car seat and car instructions.
- If the base or car seat is too loose in the car, the child will move too much in a car wreck and could be injured.