

Extended Rear-Facing for Infants and Toddlers



Jordan
Age 2 years 1 month, 33 lbs.



Zeleena
Age 2 years 6 months, 24 lbs.



Zoe
Age 2 years 3 months, 37 lbs.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend keeping children rear-facing as long, as possible up to the maximum height or weight allowed by their particular car seats.

Here's Why:

- Children in their second year of life are 5 times less likely to die or be seriously injured in a crash if restrained rear-facing compared to forward-facing.
- Rear-facing car seats are 15% more effective in preventing serious injuries than forward-facing seats.

Do you have concerns? Check out some more Extended Rear-Facing Myths and Facts:

Myth	Fact
My child is uncomfortable rear-facing.	Children's legs and hips are far more flexible than adults. Children are able to find comfort in many different seating positions, with their knees and legs bent. Most new car seats are designed with extended rear-facing in mind.
Rear-facing for too long will cause leg injuries.	In crash tests, leg injuries occurred in only 1 in 1000 rear-facing cases (nearly the same rate as in forward facing tests).
My child will throw a fit if he/she can't see out the front.	Children who have never ridden forward-facing don't know what they are missing. Tantrums are often the result of boredom or a desire to get out of the car in general. Pack travel-friendly toys and snacks to keep your child occupied.
Car seats that stay rear-facing longer are too expensive.	Most commercially available, standard seats allow for rear-facing until at least 35 pounds (often more).
The car seat says the child can go forward-facing at age one, 20 pounds, so it is just as safe.	Weight/age requirements on car seats are MINIMUM recommendations. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends keeping your child rear-facing until at least age 2. Best practice would be to keep children rear-facing until they reach the seat's maximum rear-facing weight or height limit.