Right Seat. Check the label on your car seat to make sure it’s appropriate for your child’s age, weight and height. Locate labels to find your car seat brand name, model number, date of manufacture and expiration date. You will need this important information.

Right Place. Keep all children in a back seat until they are 13. It’s the safest place to ride.

Right Direction. Keep your child in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by your car seat manufacturer. Many kids will be 2 years or older when they outgrow their rear-facing car seat. Move your child to a forward-facing car seat when they are too tall or too heavy for a rear-facing convertible seat. Make sure to adjust the harness straps and attach the top tether after you tighten and lock the seat belt or lower attachments (LATCH) after making the change.
INSTALL YOUR CAR SEAT: The Inch Test. Install your car seat using the correct belt path. Find the belt path on the label. Once your car seat is installed, give it a good shake at the belt path. Can you move it more than an inch side-to-side or front-to-back? A properly installed car seat will not move more than an inch.

SECURE YOUR HARNESS: The Pinch Test. Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots (check car seat manual). Next, with the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at your child’s shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you’re good to go.

Harness Slots
Illustrations courtesy of Center for Injury Research and Prevention at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

If you have concerns after your call with the certified technician contact the car seat manufacturer using the customer service number located on the label.

For additional information visit Safe Kids Worldwide’s online Ultimate Car Seat Guide available in English and Spanish at www.safekids.org/guide