

UK Car seat law

The law applies to cars, vans and other goods vehicles.

- **Child under three**

You must always use a car seat that is the correct seat for your child's age, height and weight whether travelling in the front or the back seat.

If the correct car seat is not available, it is illegal for the child to travel in the vehicle.

The only exception is in a taxi and then only if the correct seat is not available.

- **Child aged 3 –11, but under 135cm tall**

You must use a car seat that is the correct seat for your child's age, height and weight whether travelling in the front or the back seat.

The only exceptions to this, when the correct car seat is not available, are:

1. In a taxi where the correct car seat is not available
2. For an unexpected and necessary journey over a short distance
3. Two occupied child restraints in the vehicle prevent a third from being fitted.

In all of these cases, an adult seat belt must be used.

- **Child over 135cm, or 12 years and over**

An adult seat belt must be worn.

[Child car seats: the law: Using a child car seat or booster seat - GOV.UK](#)

Is Your Child in the Right Car Seat?

How to know for sure:



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Babies and toddlers need to ride rear-facing as long as possible.

Keep children rear-facing until they are at least two years old, or until they reach their car seat's height or weight limits. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats usually have higher height and weight limits for rear-facing (compared to infant-only seats) so you can keep your child rear-facing longer.



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Use a forward-facing seat with a harness when your child outgrows the rear-facing seat.

When your child outgrows the rear-facing seat, he/she should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness up to the highest weight or height allowed in the car seat instructions. Use the top tether strap based on your car seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions. The tether (and harness) limit your child's movement in a crash.



BOOSTER SEAT

Children are ready for a booster when:

- They reach the limits for the forward-facing car seat with a harness, or
- Their shoulders grow above the car seat top harness slot, or
- Their ears are at the top of their car seat.

Boosters help keep the seat belts in the safest position. The lap belt stays low, touching the tops of the legs. The shoulder belt is centered on the shoulder and chest, so children don't put it behind their backs or under their arms.



SEAT BELT

Is your child ready to ride on the seat?

- Can your child sit with his hips against the back of the seat?
- Do her knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
- Does the belt cross the center of your child's shoulder and is the lap belt low, touching the tops of your child's legs?
- Can your child sit like this the entire trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs to keep using a booster.



The back seat is the safest place. Children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old.



Attend a car seat checkup to be sure your child is in the right seat and the seat is installed correctly.







Always check your vehicle and car seat manufacturers' instructions to be sure your child's car seat is installed and used correctly.



Seat belts do not usually fit until children are 4'9" tall and between 8-12 years old.

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UK CHILD CAR SEAT LAW - HEIGHT

Baby	Baby and toddler	Toddler and child	Child
			
Newborn to 85cm (From 0 to 15-18 months old)	Newborn to 105cm (0 to 4 years old)	61cm to 105cm (15 months to 4 years old)	100cm to 135cm (4 to 12 years old)

AVIS

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How to Choose the Right Car Seat

