



Car Seat Tips for Premies & Small Newborns

Are you taking home a baby weighing less than 5 pounds?

More than 1 in 10 parents take home a baby weighing less than 5 pounds.

Many infant car seats have a starting weight of 5 pounds; only a few start at 4 pounds or less!

IMPORTANT: Some car seats come with newborn inserts. Car seats, and anything that comes in the box with the seat, have rigorous crash testing & standards they must meet. Products sold separately - like infant head/body positioners, fleece sleeping bags, strap covers, etc - are not regulated & do not have to pass any crash tests. Such "aftermarket products" should not be used as they will make your baby **LESS SAFE**, and will void the car seat's warranty. **NOTHING** should be placed under your baby or under the straps. Once your baby is buckled snugly wearing a few thin layers of clothes, you can "swaddle" the baby **OVER** the straps to keep him calm, give extra support for his body, and keep him warm.

If your baby is born before 37 weeks or has a medical condition that may affect her breathing or ability to maintain her oxygen level, she will get a "[car seat test](#)", as recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP). During the car seat test, the baby will sit properly strapped into the car seat for 90 minutes to make sure that her heart rate, breathing, and oxygen levels stay in a normal range. The AAP recommends that babies who "pass" their car seat test go home in a rear-facing car seat, **NOT** a car bed. Car beds should **ONLY** be used for infants who "fail" - i.e. they can not maintain their heart rate, oxygen level or breathing while in the car seat - as the protection provided by a rear-facing car seat is better documented than that for car beds.

Rear-Facing Infant Seats by Minimum Starting Weight

No Weight Minimum

- * [Combi](#) - [Shuttle 33](#), [Navette](#)*
- * [Nania](#) - [Baby Ride](#)* (model with 4 shoulder strap slots)

3 Pounds

- * [Combi](#) - [Coccoro](#) (manufactured 8/2011 and newer)

4 Pounds

- * [Britax](#) - [B-SAFE](#) (but will not fit until baby ~7lbs), [Chaperone](#)
- * [Chicco](#) - [Key Fit 22](#), [Key Fit 30](#), [Key Fit 30 Magic](#)
- * [Cybex](#) - [Aton](#)
- * [Evenflo](#) - [Secure Ride](#) (some versions)
- * [Graco](#) - [Snug Ride 30](#), [Snug Ride 35](#) (some versions)
- * [Orbit Baby](#) - [G2 Infant Car Seat](#)
- * [Safety 1st](#) - [Comfy Carry](#), [onBoard 35](#), [onBoard 35 Air](#)

5 Pounds

- * [Baby Trend](#) - [Flex Loc](#), [EZ Flex Loc](#)
- * [Evenflo](#) - [Discovery 5](#), [Embrace 5](#), [Serenade](#), [Secure Ride](#) (some versions)
- * [Graco](#) - [Snug Ride 22](#), [Snug Ride 35](#) (some versions)
- * [Maxi Cosi](#) - [Mico](#)
- * [Peg Perego](#) - [Primo Viaggio SIP 30/30](#)
- * [Safety 1st](#) - [Designer](#)
- * [Teutonia](#) - [t-Tario 35](#)
- * [The First Years](#) - [Via i470](#)

*Combi Navette & Nania Baby Ride **only** available to institutions/agencies and only in multi-packs (3 or 4/box)



4 lb "preemie doll" in Britax Chaperone

www.TheCarSeatLady.com (last update 1/12)