

Automobile Restraints for Children with Special Needs: Quick Reference List

Many innovative products are available to safely transport children with special needs. Unfortunately, education for parents of these children and the professionals serving them has not kept up with the strides in the technology to protect these youngsters. Due to lack of awareness, many programs are not providing or utilizing available products. SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. believes that federal leadership is needed to encourage targeted efforts, such as those addressing treatment needs of those with “orphan diseases,” to give these children the protection they deserve.

Products and Recommendations for Low-Birth-Weight Babies

Infant-only seats with no minimum weight specified: **Combi Shuttle**, Shuttle 33; **Orbit Infant**; **Team Tex BabyRide**. Minimum 4 pounds: **Britax Chaperone**, **Chicco KeyFit**, KeyFit 30; **Dorel SureFit/onBoard**, onBoard35; **Learning Curve Via**.

For premature or small infants, use an infant-only seat or convertible seat without a shield. Select a seat with very low shoulder strap slots and more than one crotch strap location. Secure harness on infant, wearing lightweight clothing, according to manufacturer's instructions; then place rolled diapers or receiving blankets along both sides of infant's body and head. Do not place blankets or padding between baby and the safety seat or harness. Exception: to limit slumping, place wedged diaper between infant's crotch and the crotch strap. Use a side-facing car bed certified for use in motor vehicles if baby must lie flat for medical reasons. Some small infants must not travel in the semi-upright position; the consequences could be fatal. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that infants born at less than 37 weeks gestation be monitored in a semi-reclined position prior to discharge to detect possible breathing and heart rhythm problems. For details, refer to the 2009 AAP clinical report Safe Transportation of Preterm and Low Birth Weight Infants at Hospital Discharge (<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;123/5/1424>).

Side-Facing Car Beds (For babies who must lie flat)

Angel Guard Angel Ride Infant Car Bed. Side-facing car bed for babies up to 9 lbs. Baby may ride on back, front, or right side if ordered by doctor.

Dorel Cosco Dream Ride SE. Side-facing car bed for babies 5 to 20 lbs. Baby lies on back or, if advised by doctor, on stomach.

Large Convertible Seats (May be used up to 50 lbs. or more; only lap belt required.)

Britax Advocate CS, Boulevard CS, Decathlon, or Marathon CS. 5-65 lbs.; **Roundabout 50**. 5-50 lbs. All convertibles rear facing to 35 lbs.

Dorel Complete Air. 5-50 lbs., rear facing to 40 lbs.; **Alpha Omega/AO Elite/Elite/Luxe/All in One/3-in1/Deluxe**. 5-50 lbs. with harness, rear facing to 35 lbs., 40-100 lbs. as booster.

Evenflo Titan Elite or Triumph Advance. 5-50 lbs., rear facing to 35 lbs.

Graco My Ride 65. 5-65 lbs., rear facing to 40 lbs.

Learning Curve True Fit Convertible, True Fit Premier. 5-65 lbs., rear facing to 35 lbs.

Orbit Baby Toddler. 15-50 lbs.; rear facing to 35 lbs.

Recaro Como or Signo G2. 5-70 lbs., rear facing to 35 lbs.

Sunshine Kids Radian65SL. 5-65 lbs.; **Radian80SL** or **RadianXTSL**. 5-80 lbs. All rear facing to 45 lbs.

Special Convertible Seats

Britax Hippo. Distributed by Snug Seat. For children in a spica cast. Rear facing 5-33 lbs. (casted weight); forward facing 34-65 lbs.

Triple Play Sit 'n Stroll. Rear facing birth to 30 lbs.; forward facing up to 40 lbs. Converts to stroller.

Large Forward-Facing Child Restraints

May be used up to 50 lbs. or more; may require tether strap or lap-shoulder belt. Lap-shoulder belt required for all boosters. Recommend using a rear-facing seat until at least age two.

Bergeron Special Tomato Multi-Positioning Seats. Small (20 to 80 lbs.) or large (up to 150 lbs.) Must be tethered for children over 50 lbs. Adjustable headrest, positioning features, mobile floor base, stroller base.

Britax Regent. 22-80 lbs. Must be tethered 50-80 lbs. **Frontier.** 25-80 lbs. with harness. Must be tethered 65-80 lbs.; may be used as booster from 40 lbs. until child is too tall.

Columbia #2000. 20-102 lbs. **#2500.** 65-130 lbs. Adjustable pads for positioning. Must be tethered for children over 65 lbs. Can be fitted on wheelchair or stroller.

Dorel Apex 65. 22-65 lbs. with harness; 40-100 lbs. as booster. **Go Hybrid.** 22-65 lbs. with harness, tether required; 40-100 lbs. as backless booster. Both must be supported by vehicle seatback.

Evenflo Maestro. 20-50 lbs. with harness; 40-100 lbs. as booster.

E-Z-On Vest, Y Harness, or Kid Y Harness. For children and adults with behavioral issues or poor trunk control. Models for school bus use (uses cam wrap instead of safety belt) or casted child to lie flat on rear seat. Some harnesses may be used with **Safety Angel Ride Ryte Booster.** Tether required.

Evenflo Generations 65. 20-65 lbs. with harness; 30-100 lbs. as booster.

Graco Nautilus. 20-65 lbs. with harness; 30-100 lbs. as booster.

Merritt Manufacturing Roosevelt. 35-115 lbs. Optional positioning pads and seat extenders (2 sizes) to support longer legs. Conventional tether use is recommended, but not required with the long routing of a lap-shoulder belt and use of the provided EZ-Tether Connector Strap. **Churchill.** 65-175 lbs. Booster with positioning features (no harness).

Reha-Partner distributes the **Peppino** for 20-55 lbs. with stroller base. It has a 5-point harness but requires lap and shoulder belt in the car.

Safe Traffic System Ride Safer Travel Vests. 35-60 lbs. or 50-80 lbs. Both vests may be used with lap-shoulder belt OR lap belt and tether strap up to 60 lbs. Larger vest with lap belt and dual tether up to 80 lbs.

Sammons Preston Rolyan Tumble Forms Carrie Seats. Various sizes. Tether required.

Snug Seat Traveller Plus EL. 22-105 lbs. Tether required. Two tether anchors required for child over 80 lbs. Includes recline bar, crotch pommel, and seat extension for larger children.

Wheelchair Tie-Downs (For transport in buses and vans; must be installed forward facing)

Gresham Secure-Lok. Metal hooks, webbing straps. Lap and shoulder belt available.

Kinedyne Sure-Lok. Wheelchair tie-down and occupant restraint systems.

Ortho Safe Systems Protector. Wheelchair tie-down.

Q'Straint by Q'Straint. Four straps used to attach chair; vehicle lap and shoulder belt used for occupant.

Safety Seat Use for Ambulance Transport

EVS Ltd. Hi-BAC Safety Seat for ambulances has a built-in harness system for children at least one year old who weigh 20-50 lbs. If no child is present, the attendant may use the Hi-BAC; the rear-facing orientation improves protection. For infants, use the lap belt to attach a regular convertible safety seat with harness straps in lowest slots, reclined, and installed so baby faces the rear of the vehicle.

SafeGuard Transport is a cot-mounted restraint for ambulances. The 5-point harness fits 22-100 lbs.

Serenity Safety Products Guardian Safety Seat is an ambulance seat that swivels to face forward or rearward. It has an integrated cradle for 5-22 lbs. and booster with 5-point harness for 23-85 lbs.

Dorel DreamRide SE. Use side facing with loops on each side. Put a tie-down on gurney through each set of loops.

Convertible seats (various weight limits) may be used when the child is the patient. Attach with both sets of tie-downs on the gurney, with either raised or flat head area. Regardless of child's age, safety seat faces rearward; use harness slots at or below child's shoulders.

Manufacturers or Distributors of Products Listed

Angel Guard Products (330) 723-5928 www.angel-guard.com
Bergeron Health Care (800) 371-2778 www.adaptivemall.com
Britax Child Safety (888) 427-4829 www.childseat.com
Chicco (717) 735-6200 www.chiccousa.com
Columbia Medical (800) 454-6612 www.columbiamedical.com
Combi USA (800) 992-6624 www.combi-intl.com
Dorel Juvenile Group (800) 544-1108 www.djgusa.com/mainpg.html
EVS Ltd. (800) 364-3218 www.evsltd.com
E-Z-On Products (800) 323-6598 www.ezonpro.com
Evenflo Products (800) 233-5921 www.evenflo.com
Gresham Driving Aids (800) 521-8930 www.greshamdrivingaids.com
Graco Children's Products (800) 345-4109 www.gracobaby.com
Kinedyne (785) 841-4000 www.sure-lok.com
Learning Curve (630) 573-7200 www.learningcurve.com
Merritt Manufacturing (317) 409-0148 www.eztether.com
Mia Moda (866) 642-6632 www.miamodainc.com
Orbit Baby (877) 672-2229 www.orbitbaby.com
Ortho Safe Systems International (609) 587-9444
Q'Straint USA (800) 987-9987 www.qstraint.com
Recaro North America (800) 873-2276 www.recaro-nao.com
Reha-Partner (866) 282-4558 www.reha-partner.com
Safe Traffic System (847) 329-8111 www.safetrafficsystem.com
Safety Angel/Safe Start (888) 743-3798 www.safetyangel.com
Sammons Preston Rolyan (800) 323-5547 www.sammonspreston.com
Serenity Safety Products (800) 536-0676 serenitysafetyproducts.com
Snug Seat, (800) 336-7684 www.snugseat.com
Sunshine Kids Juvenile Products (888) 336-7909 www.skjp.com
Team Tex (877) 912-1313
Triple Play Products (800) 829-1625 www.tripleplayproducts.com

<p><i>SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.</i> P.O. Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003 www.carseat.org 310/222-6860, 800/745-SAFE (English) 310/222-6862, 800/747-SANO (Spanish)</p>
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