### QUICK REFERENCE

**Direction**
- Babies less than 2 should ride in a rear-facing position to protect the spine and neck. Babies who have outgrown the infant only child safety seat (CSS) should switch to a convertible CSS and use rear-facing up to the highest height or weight (usually 30-45 pounds) permitted by the manufacturer. At a minimum, children MUST be age 1 and 20 pounds before facing forward. CSS selection may be limited by what fits in the vehicle.

**Location**
- All children under age 13 should ride in a back seat. If a child must ride in the front seat, then the child with a full harness CSS or properly adjusted shoulder seatbelt, seated in the correct forward facing and upright position, should sit there. Move the vehicle seat as far back from the airbag as possible. For older children sitting in safety belts next to side-airbags, remind them to sit straight up and avoid resting their heads on a window or structural pillar of the vehicle.

**Harness**
- Rear-facing CSS harness straps should pass through the slots at or below the child's shoulders. The forward facing harness straps should pass through the slots at or above the child's shoulders. Read CSS instructions. Use all CSS until the upper height or weight limits are met. A child is too large for the CSS when the shoulder harnesses used with a booster base, must be used according to manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual. Many children will be between 8-12 years.

**Belt-Positioning Booster (BPP) Seats**
- Use all BPPs with vehicle lap and shoulder safety belts. Check BPP instructions for use with switchable shoulder belts. Special products, such as vests and Y harnesses used with a booster base, must be used according to manufacturer's instructions and the vehicle owner's manual. Many children will be between 8-12 years before the safety belt alone fits properly. Use a BPP until that time.

**Installation**
- Fully read and follow all labels plus CSS and vehicle manuals for every CSS installation. Never install a rear-facing CSS in front of a frontal airbag. No system is fail-safe, so even if the passenger sensing system or airbag switch shows the right front passenger frontal airbag is turned off, secure rear-facing CSS in a back seat. Safety belts must pass through the CSS exactly as the manufacturer directs. CSS must not move more than 1 inch side to side or front to back when grasped at the belt path. In general, use either lower anchors or safety belts, not both together, unless allowed by both the CSS and vehicle manufacturer. Check vehicle manuals to identify designated lower anchor and tether anchor locations. Always use the top tether when directed by the CSS and vehicle instructions. Follow the current LATCH Manual if further guidance or clarification is needed. LATCH weight limits must be followed. Heavier children who ride in a harnessed CSS may require special arrangements. Seat belts in vehicles made after 1996 meet lockability requirements, so no locking clip should be needed. Always test vehicle safety belts to be sure they are locked at either the retractor or latchplate unless a lock off or locking clip has been used to secure the car seat. Treat unused safety belts as you would any cord by ensuring that they are out of reach of children, and that caregivers are aware of entanglement danger (e.g., inflatable seat belts) changes regularly and requires your full attention. You must read manuals! This summary does not take the place of reading manuals.

**Child Ready for Safety Belt**
- With the child's back and bottom against vehicle seat back, the knees should bend naturally at vehicle seat edge. When the safety belt is buckled, the lap belt fits low on the hips, touching the thighs, and the shoulder belt rests between neck and shoulder on the collarbone. Never place the shoulder belt under arms or behind backs. Optimally, the child's feet should touch the floor.

**Other**
- Remind caregivers to NEVER LEAVE A CHILD ALONE IN A CAR. The CSS is not a babysitter. Children should not spend excessive amounts of time in a CSS when outside of a car.