



ADAPTIVE CAR SEATS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0–5

TIP SHEET ON SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S SAFETY AND COMFORT ON EVERY RIDE

WHAT ARE ADAPTIVE CAR SEATS?

ADAPTIVE CAR SEATS ARE SPECIAL CAR SEATS DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN WHO NEED EXTRA SUPPORT TO RIDE SAFELY. THEY LOOK SIMILAR TO REGULAR CAR SEATS BUT OFFER ADDITIONAL FEATURES TO HELP CHILDREN WHO HAVE MEDICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, OR PHYSICAL NEEDS.

WHO MIGHT NEED AN ADAPTIVE CAR SEAT?

YOUR CHILD MAY BENEFIT FROM AN ADAPTIVE CAR SEAT IF THEY:

- HAVE LOW MUSCLE TONE OR NEED EXTRA HELP SITTING UPRIGHT
- HAVE MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE MORE SUPPORT
- USE A CAST OR BRACE
- HAVE DIFFICULTY STAYING SAFELY POSITIONED IN A STANDARD CAR SEAT
- HAVE SENSORY OR BEHAVIORAL NEEDS THAT AFFECT SAFETY WHILE RIDING

SOME HELPFUL FEATURES

ADAPTIVE CAR SEATS CAN INCLUDE:

- EXTRA SUPPORT FOR THE HEAD, NECK, AND BODY
- ADJUSTABLE HARNESSES AND STRAPS
- OPTIONS TO RECLINE FOR BETTER BREATHING AND COMFORT
- SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN IN CASTS (SUCH AS HIP OR LEG CASTS)

SAFETY TIPS FOR FAMILIES

- ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CAR SEAT’S INSTRUCTIONS.
- DO NOT ADD EXTRA PADDING OR ITEMS UNLESS APPROVED BY THE MANUFACTURER.
- MAKE SURE STRAPS ARE SNUG AND POSITIONED CORRECTLY.
- SEEK HELP FROM A CERTIFIED CPST IF YOU’RE UNSURE ABOUT INSTALLATION.
- VISIT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION WEBSITE, PART OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO IDENTIFY LOCAL INSTALLATION AND CAR SEAT INSPECTION LOCATIONS
 - [HTTPS://WWW.NHTSA.GOV/](https://www.nhtsa.gov/)

EXAMPLES OF ADAPTIVE CAR SEATS

PLEASE SEE BELOW COMMONLY RECOMMENDED MODELS:

- SPECIAL TOMATO® CAR SEAT
- SPIRIT APS CAR SEAT
- ROOSEVELT™ BOOSTER SEAT (SAMPLE PICTURE SHOWN)
- HIPPO CAR SEAT (FOR SPICA OR HIP CASTS)
- HOUDINI HARNESS (USED WITH GUIDANCE FOR EXTRA SAFETY SUPPORT)

YOUR PROVIDER WILL HELP MATCH THE RIGHT SEAT TO YOUR CHILD’S NEEDS.



**ROOSEVELT SPECIAL NEEDS
CAR SEAT PEDIATRIC
VEHICLE RESTRAINT
SYSTEM**

RESOURCES/ RECURSOS

1. NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – PREVENT INJURY PROGRAM). RESOURCES ON ADAPTIVE SEATING, SPECIAL-NEEDS TRANSPORTATION, CLINICAL GUIDELINES, AND REFERRAL PATHWAYS.
2. AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (AAP). TRANSPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS GUIDANCE.
3. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA). FEDERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY, INSTALLATION PRACTICES, AND VEHICLE ADAPTATION.
4. SPECIAL TOMATO (R82 / CONVAID). PRODUCT GUIDES AND CLINICAL INDICATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SEATING SYSTEMS.
5. INSPIRED BY DRIVE. TECHNICAL SHEETS FOR THE SPIRIT APS AND ROOSEVELT BOOSTER SEAT.
6. MERRITT MANUFACTURING. CLINICAL INDICATIONS AND USER GUIDANCE FOR THE HIPPO CAR SEAT (DESIGNED FOR SPICA AND HIP CASTS).
7. SAFE TRAVEL FOR ALL CHILDREN (CPST-SN TRAINING). CERTIFICATION COURSE FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TECHNICIANS SPECIALIZING IN SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.
8. CPS BOARD (CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY BOARD). CURRICULUM MODULES ADDRESSING SPECIAL-NEEDS TRANSPORTATION AND ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT,
9. CALIFORNIA CHILDCARE HEALTH PROGRAM (CCHP). SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF YOUR CHILD WITH DISABILITIES FACT SHEET.
10. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH). CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY AND SPECIAL-NEEDS RECOMMENDATIONS.
11. MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH. SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND CAR SEATS GUIDANCE.
12. CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS AND ADAPTIVE TRANSPORTATION CLINICS PROVIDING ASSESSMENTS, FITTING, AND EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (E.G., SPECIAL NEEDS CAR SEAT CLINICS, OT/PT-LED EVALUATIONS).
13. MEDI-CAL DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME) COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR ADAPTIVE CAR SEATS WHEN MEDICALLY NECESSARY.
14. REGIONAL CENTERS (CALIFORNIA) – FUNDING PATHWAYS FOR EQUIPMENT WITH CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION.
15. NONPROFIT LOANER PROGRAMS PROVIDING TEMPORARY USE OF ADAPTIVE CAR SEATS.

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