



**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA**



**L'ASSOCIATION POUR
LA SÉCURITÉ DES ENFANTS
PASSAGERS DU CANADA**

Rear-Facing Recommendations for Canadian Children

6-Nov-2017; updated 22-Nov-2018

Questions were raised by CPSAC members after Dorel released a [statement](#) in 2017 addressing why they lowered their forward-facing minimums to 1 yr of age. This statement called into question everything we thought we knew about rear facing, but is not a cause to panic.

Since the initial publication of this statement, a [unified statement was released](#) by Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA), and SafeKids Worldwide and states that:

“Infants, toddlers and small children should ride rear-facing in a car seat for as long as allowed by manufacturer instructions.”

CPSAC follows evidence-based guidelines that are in line with the [Canadian Pediatric Society](#) and [Transport Canada](#). These guidelines also align with the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [NHTSA](#), and [CPS Board](#) (a program of SafeKids Worldwide), and [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute](#).

Transport Canada makes [the following recommendation](#) regarding when to transition to a forward-facing seat:

“Rear-facing is the safest position for your child. Even if your provincial or territorial regulations allow you to move to a forward-facing seat, your child should keep using rear-facing seats as long as possible. When your child outgrows his or her infant seat, moving to a convertible seat will allow your child to stay seated rear-facing longer. It is okay if your child's legs touch the vehicle seat back.”

Research is ongoing in the world of child passenger safety and current research may change future recommendations. It's important to recognize that there is a difference between research and recommendations. The current recommendation - which is to keep a child rear facing as long as they fit the seat - remains the same and will remain so until there is sufficient evidence to result in Transport Canada changing their recommendations.

CPSAC will continue to monitor the research in this important area and will notify members if/when new recommendations emerge.

