



# LOW WEIGHT & PREMMIE BABIES

Safe travel in the car for your smallest passenger

Premature and low birth weight babies are often discharged from the hospital while still very small and may not fit well in standard car seats. It's important to make sure they are safely restrained in the car.

To keep these babies safe while traveling, Kidsafe offers special car capsules/carriers for low birth weight babies, available for short-term or long-term hire. There are only a few car seats in Australia that are suitable for these infants, so you can rent one from Kidsafe for the first few months until your baby is big enough for a standard car seat.

## Why is the harness so important?

A restraining harness has no less than five points of attachment to the shell of the seat or capsule, comprising; shoulder straps, lap straps and a crotch strap or leg straps that hold your child securely at their shoulders and hips, which are the strongest parts of their body.

In a crash, the harness spreads the force across these strong areas and into the seat, helping to protect the softer parts of their body, like the abdomen.

If your child does not fit into, or cannot tolerate conventional child car seats and harnesses, you should explore other options to keep them safe while traveling.



Two upper straps

Two lateral straps

One lower strap



**✔ Correct Fitment:**

- Harness positioned level with shoulders
- Harness close to hips
- Crotch buckle supporting pelvis
- Firm harness fitment

**✘ Incorrect Fitment:**

**(Standard child car seat)**

- Shoulder harness too high
- Harness not close to hips
- Crotch buckle too high
- Loose harness fitment

**i ADVICE**

If your child is premature or low birth weight, start by talking to your health professional. You can also get help from child seat experts like Kidsafe, who offer advice and support to find the best solution for you and your child.