



PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES OF ELIZABETHTOWN, PLLC

Leaving the Hospital

The most important thing that we can stress in discussing leaving the hospital is that your infant's first car ride should be in an approved seat whenever the car is in motion. Never attempt to hold the infant while the car is moving because, in the event of an accident, this will only result in your baby becoming a cushion between you and the dash of your car. You should look at the acquisition of an approved car seat as the first expression of love and concern you can show for your newborn baby.

We like to recommend that you purchase an infant seat to use from birth to approximately 20 pounds as it is lightweight, portable, and is versatile in serving as an infant seat for home use. Later on one can purchase the larger safety seat, which fits the child up to 40 pounds. Once the child is 40 inches tall and/or 40 pounds in weight, he should be able to use a booster seat. Booster seats are recommended by the AAP until 57 inches tall or 80 pounds. Your infant should face rear in the car until 24 months old and 20 pounds; this is a state law. The safest position in the car is the middle of the back seat. Infants and young children should NEVER ride in front of an airbag. All children under 12 years should ride in the back seat.