

# Special Needs Car Seats

IVAN Presentation  
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## Special Needs Objectives

- Infant car seats & Car Beds for low birth weight & premies
- The New Roosevelt car seat manufactured by Merritt Manufacturing
- Modified E-Z-ON Vest
- Hippo car seat

### Premature/Low Birth Weight Babies

- Use rear-facing infant CR with small internal harness dimensions
- Use CR designed for child's low birth weight
- Center infant in CR with rolled receiving blankets and crotch roll, if necessary
- Use CR for transportation ONLY



### Premature/Low Birth Weight Babies

- May be subject to oxygen desaturation when placed in a semi-upright position
- AAP Policy - Angle Tolerance Test
- Less than 37 weeks gestation or 5 lbs
- Tested using parent's car seat



### Car Beds

- For infants who must lie down
- Infant's head placed toward center of vehicle in all beds
- Seat Belt around car bed (angel ride) or Loop guides for seat belt

Angel Ride



Birth-9 pounds and 20 inches; three-point harness

Dream Ride



5-20 pounds and 26 inches; three-point harness

Snug Seat Car Bed



Birth to 21 pounds and 29 1/2 inches; sleeping bag instead of harness - discontinued

Source: Automotive Safety Program

### Car Beds

**Seat Belt routing:**

**Angel Ride:** Lap portion of belt routed around front of car bed under belt guides, after installed tightly with lap portion, thread straps on car bed back edge around the seat belt to help prevent bed from flipping up

**Dream Ride:** One seat belt through 2 fabric loops next to veh. Seat bight Loops can be moved to other side. Some "play" front to back & ~1" side To side after installed is OK

**Snug Seat Car Bed:** discontinued but may still see. One seat belt through 2 loops of webbing, tabs on front of bed pulled Through A-locks to tighten

### Infant only seats

**Infant only seats – rated from birth**

Graco Assura lowest strap slots are 6" high.  
 Peg Perego Primo Viaggio  
 Combi Connection seats

**Car beds (for infants who must lie down)**

Angel Ride car bed birth - 9# 20"  
 Dream Ride SE - 5- 20# 26"  
 Snug Seat Car Bed birth-21# 29 ½"  
 (discontinued but will still see)

### Infant only seats (cont)

▶ **Infant only seats rated from 4#**

- ▶ Dorel Eddie Bauer "Surefit" ~ New (coming in Feb 08)
- ▶ Britax Companion & Baby Safe ~
- ▶ Chicco Key Fit ~
- ▶ Compass I-400 ~
- ▶ All have small dimension harnesses, 4-22#

### Infant Only seat (cont)

▶ **Infant only seats rated from #5**

- ▶ Graco Snug Ride
- ▶ Comfort Sport
- ▶ **Please note:** Both seats have been changed from starting at birth to starting at #5.
- ▶ There may be others on the market that start at #5

### Children With Special Health Needs

- ▶ First option is to use a standard CR if it meets the child's needs
- ▶ Easier to find and use
- ▶ Less expensive



19.5 pounds, 13 months

### Forward-Facing Convertible Seat

Forward-facing:

- ▶ CR in upright position
- ▶ Some manufacturers allow a semi-reclined position forward facing



### Casts and Other Conditions

- ▶ Follow weight limits using casted weight
- ▶ Specialized CRs for children
- ▶ Go to [aap.org](http://aap.org) or [preventinjury.org](http://preventinjury.org) for specific product recommendations

Spelcast - discontinued



Hippo



### Children With Special Health Care Needs

- ▶ **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**
  - Details on safe transportation of the child should be included
- ▶ **National Standards for School Transportation**
  - School bus drivers need focused training on transporting special-needs students
- ▶ **Special-needs occupant restraint systems**
  - Appropriate selection
  - Regular CRS that may work with a child having special needs
  - Use of approved devices
  - Transit option wheelchairs

### The Roosevelt Car Seat by Merritt Manufacturing



New Seat

35-115#

33.5" - 62"

No tethering needed  
If using "Long Belt  
Path" w/lap &  
Shoulder belt

Cost \$995.00

roosevelt@eztether.com



### The Roosevelt Car Seat by Merritt Manufacturing

- ▶ New Special Needs Seat
- ▶ 35-115#, 33.5-62"
- ▶ No tethering needed if using "LONG BELT PATH"
- ▶ Top harness ht. 2.5" higher than other competitors
- ▶ Stay put "pommel" - maintains child positioning
- ▶ Assesory pads and additional parts available
- ▶ 2 leg extensions - 2" & 3.5"

### Vests & Harnesses

*E-Z-ON Vest*

*(Check website for more details)*

*Modified E-Z-ON Vest*

E-Z-ON Vest



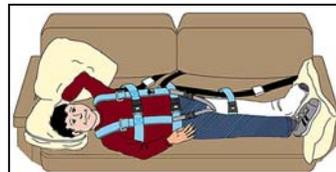
2 yrs & over  
20-168#

Check website  
For more details

www.ezonpro.com

### Modified E-Z-ON Vest

- ▶ For children 2-12 years old who must lie down:
  - Child must fit lengthwise on bench seat
  - Follow weight limits using casted weight
  - If not casted, this child would ride facing forward



### Modified E-Z-ON Vest

- > Use for body casts, hip spica casts, braces
- > Supine, prone, side-lying
- > Pad vehicle floor space
- > Pad between sides of veh. & head/feet
- > 2 seat belts one thru chest strap & one thru waist or cast strap
- > Only one seat belt for children under 30" ht.
- > Locking clip if necessary
- > No extremity belt with infant under 30"
- > 2 models avail.
- > 2-5 yr ~ 20-65# ~ 19-25" extremity belt
- > 5-12 yr ~ 20-100# ~ 25-32" extremity belt

### Snug Seat Hippo

Commonly used for hip casts



RF 5-33#

FF 1 yr. & 20-65#

FF recline to 40#

Assessories avail.

must be tethered a in FF recline mode AND after 40#

Lap belt under latch bar

Should/lap OVER latch Bar

Cost \$449.00



Latch system only to 48#

Use Lock off closest to retractor

### Other Special Needs examples

Britax Traveler plus



22-105 pounds and 56 inches or less

\$594.00

Gorilla - discontinued



22-102 pounds and 36-60 inches

May still see

Columbia 2500



40-130 pounds and 54-66 inches

Largest seat on the market

### Summary

- > Be aware of your communities resources
- > If you don't know, don't be afraid to admit it
- > Let them know you will find out the proper information needed
- > Know that there are many options for special needs transport whether it's a conventional restraint or a special needs car seat.
- > Special Needs Car Seats may be needed short or long term.