

# Child car seats

An update on our Best Buys

## BEST BUYS

More Isofix seats, which attach directly to the car without using seat belts, are appearing. We've already tested the Britax Duo Plus. Now Britax has launched the first Isofix seat for newborn babies, and other makers plan to launch Isofix seats soon. As more new cars include Isofix mounts, the new seats should be easier to install and so reduce the risks associated with incorrect fitting.

We hope to include the new seats in our next tests, to be published later this year. Meanwhile, here's an update on our current Best Buys.

### FOR CHILDREN UP TO 13kg

The three Best Buys in this category are the Britax (1), £90 from John Lewis or Mothercare, and the Maxi-Cosi (2), £60, and the Mothercare (3), £40, both from Mothercare. The Britax is the easiest to use; threading the belt through the Mothercare is trickier. The Britax and Maxi-Cosi can be used in a pram or carrycot as well as a car.

### FOR CHILDREN 9kg TO 18kg

If you have a car with Isofix mounts, the Britax (4), £179 from John Lewis, is easy to use. For cars without Isofix mounts, go for a Maxi-Cosi seat from Halfords – the SPS (5), £90, or XP (6), £100.

### FOR CHILDREN 15kg TO 36kg

The Maxi-Cosi (7) is comfortable and easy to use, and gives good overall protection. Buy it at Halfords or Toys R Us for £80. The Britax (8) is still up with the leaders and costs £79 at John Lewis.

## KEY

★ ☆ ○ ● ●  
Best Worst  
■ Best Buy

## SCORE

This ignores price and is based on:  
Safety 60%  
Ease of use 40%



## TABLE NOTES

All the seats are Best Buys.

## Specification

**Price** Cheapest high-street price we found. **Type of seat** R = rearward facing, F = forward facing. **Integral harness** Whether there is an integral harness (instead of using car seat belts to hold the child). **Booster** Can be used as full seat with a back, or with only the base as a booster.

## Performance

**Comfort** Includes padding, vision and comfort. **Front crash/Side crash** Based on crash conditions used in Euro NCAP tests. **Overall safety** Based on crash test results, head support, belt routing and stability of seat in car.

## Ease of use

**Belt routing** How easy this was in different cars.

**Buckling up** How easy it is to put a child in and take it out. **Advice** Clarity of labels and instructions. **Correct use** How well the design prevents incorrect use.

## WHICH? EXTRA

To see results for all 29 child car seats we've tested, go to [www.which.co.uk/childseats](http://www.which.co.uk/childseats).

## Child car seats

### CHILDREN UP TO 13kg

	Price (£)	Type	Integral harness	Booster	Comfort	Front crash	Side crash	Overall safety	Belt routing	Buckling up	Advice	Correct use	(%)
1 Britax Cosy Tot Premium	90	R	✓		☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	★	★	71
2 Maxi-Cosi Cabrio	60	R	✓		☆	☆	○	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	69
3 Mothercare Travel Tot	40	R	✓		○	☆	☆	☆	○	☆	☆	☆	68

### CHILDREN 9kg TO 18kg

4 Britax Duo Plus Isofix	179	F	✓		☆	○	☆	☆	see <sup>a</sup>	★	★	☆	70
5 Maxi-Cosi Priori SPS	90	F	✓	✓	☆	●	☆	○	☆	☆	☆	☆	59
6 Maxi-Cosi Priori XP	100	F	✓		☆	●	☆	○	★	☆	☆	☆	58

### CHILDREN 15kg TO 36kg

7 Maxi-Cosi Rodi XP	80	F		✓	☆	○	☆	☆	★	★	★	★	72
8 Britax Kid	79	F		✓	★	○	☆	☆	★	★	★	★	68

<sup>a</sup> Tested with the Isofix fitting, which doesn't use seat belts