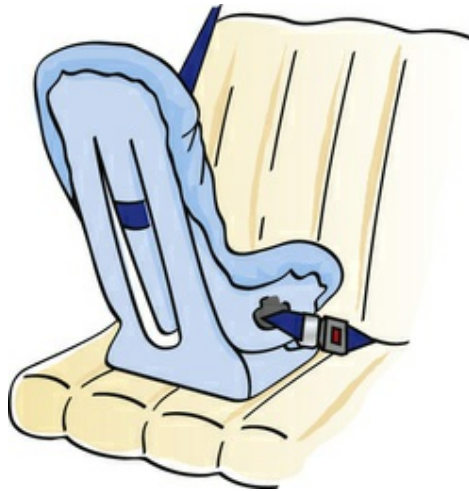


(according to the manufacturer's specifications).<sup>\*</sup> Studies indicate that toddlers up to 24 months old are safer riding in convertible seats in the rear-facing position ([American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015](#)). Another study indicated that children 0 to 3 years old riding properly restrained in the middle of the backseat had a 43% lower risk of injury than children riding in the outboard (window) seat during a crash ([Kallan, Durbin, and Arbogast, 2008](#)).



**FIG 11-9** Rear-facing convertible car seat.

Convertible restraints use different types of harness systems: a **five-point harness** that consists of a strap over each shoulder, one on each side of the pelvis, and one between the legs (all five come together at a common buckle), as well as a **padded overhead shield** that uses shoulder straps attached to a shield that is held in place by a crotch strap. With both infant and toddler restraints, it is important not to add extra blankets, head cushions, or padding between the child and the restraint straps that did not come as original equipment because these “add-ons” create spaces of air between the child and the restraint and decrease support for the back, head, and neck. Cars with free-sliding latch plates on the lap or shoulder belt require the use of a metal locking clip to keep the belt in a tight-holding position. The locking clip is threaded onto the belt above the latch plate ([Fig. 11-10, A](#)). If parents have newer cars with automatic lap and shoulder belts, they need to have additional lap belts installed to properly secure the restraint.