



Booster Seat Safety

Best Practices: Keep your child in the back seat because it's safer there.

Why use a booster seat?

- ✿ A booster seat raises and positions your child so that the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fit properly.
- ✿ A booster seat keeps the lap belt from causing injury to the child's abdomen and keeps the shoulder belt in place to give the child upper body protection.
- ✿ In the event of a crash, an adult seat belt that does not fit a child properly can actually cause injury rather than prevent it, because it doesn't fit over the strong parts of the child's body.



Booster seats are required for children 4-8 years or older, depending on their height and weight

Tips for keeping your kids safe in the car

- ✿ Restrain your child in a car seat or booster seat until they are about 57" (4'9") tall, minimum of 8 years old. A child's height is the best predictor of when a seat belt will fit them properly.
- ✿ When your child is seat in the booster seat, make sure the lap and shoulder belts fit snugly. The lap belt should fit low across the hips and the shoulder belt across the shoulder.
- ✿ Do not place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back.
- ✿ Talk to drivers who transport your big kids so they understand that booster seat use is a must when your child is in their vehicles.
- ✿ Use a booster seat with the vehicle lap AND shoulder belt until your child passes the following Safety Belt Fit Test.

Safety belt fit test

- ✿ The child should be able to sit back against the seat back with knees bent naturally at the edge of the seat.
- ✿ The vehicle lap belt should fit low on the hips, touching the thighs, not on the stomach.
- ✿ The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest, and not cross the neck or face.
- ✿ The child should be able to keep his or her feet flat on the floor.



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