Keep Your Child Safe With a Booster Seat

Once children outgrow their child safety seat, the next step is putting them in a booster seat. A booster seat raises a child up so that the seat belt will fit the child and provide a safe ride. Children should sit in a booster seat until the adult seat belt fits correctly.

Does Your Child Need a Booster Seat? Take the 5-Step Test.

Have your child sit in the back seat of the car with their bottom and back against the seat’s back and with the seat belt buckled.

1. Is your child able to sit with a straight back against the seat back?
2. Do your child’s knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
3. Does the belt on the shoulder cross between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs or low on the hips?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered NO to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder and lap belt fit right. Most Children under 9 years of age and 4’ 9” need a booster seat.

Booster Seat Tips

Booster seats should be used with a lap and shoulder belt, not just a lap belt.

Never put the shoulder belt behind the child’s arm or back. Doing so fails to protect the upper part of the body and increases the risk of severe injury in a crash.

Children under the age of 13 should ride in the back seat of the car. Riding in the back is twice as safe as riding in the front seat.