

Booster seats



Booster seats are an important step between the time when a child has outgrown a harness seat and is ready to sit using a seat belt only. Booster seats raise the child so the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fits over the strongest parts of the child's body.

Proper fit is key to safety



Shoulder belt lies flat and snug between the neck and shoulder

Lap belt lies flat and snug on the top of the thighs

Top of the child's ears are below the top of the booster or vehicle headrest

Child sits back against the booster seat. If using a backless booster, child sits against the vehicle seat back

Use booster seats correctly:

- Always use the booster seat in the back seat of the car with a lap and shoulder belt.
- Always check the booster seat and vehicle owner's manual for the correct way to install and use.
- Never use a lap-only seat belt with a booster seat.
- Even when the seat is not in use, it should be belted in at all times.
- Your child should be able to sit up for the entire trip to make sure the booster and seat belts are protecting them correctly.
- The shoulder belt should never be put behind the child's back or under their arm.

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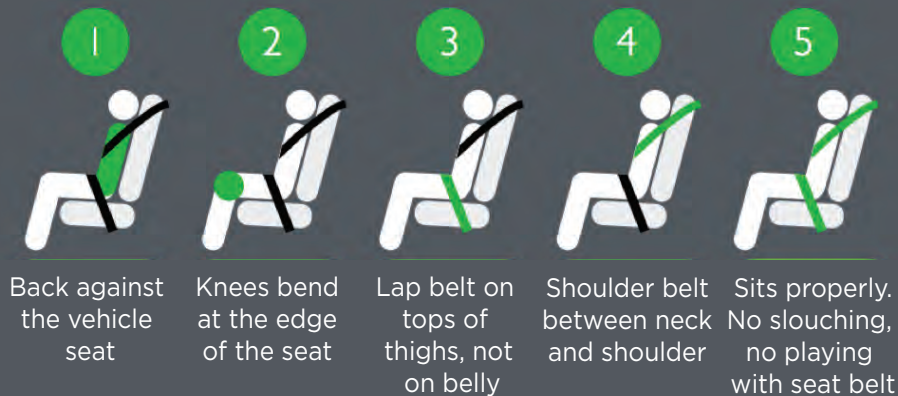
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Parenting tips for booster seats:

- Always using a booster seat correctly and riding in the back seat is a safe habit for children.
- Pull over if a child gets upset. It might be time for everyone to take a break.
- Praise children when they are sitting in the booster seat and belted correctly.
- Children are more likely to buckle up if they see a parent or caregiver buckled up.
- Let others who drive your children know that a booster seat is a must. Provide one if needed.
- Keep an extra booster in your car for other children. Even if they insist they don't need it, keep them safe when you're driving.

What comes next?

A CHILD CAN RIDE SAFELY WITHOUT A BOOSTER WHEN THEY PASS THE FIVE-STEP TEST:



THE CAR SEAT LADY

MOST KIDS ARE 10-12 YEARS OLD BEFORE THEY PASS THE FIVE-STEP TEST.

If you answer no to any of the above steps, your child should stay in a booster seat. Since cars and seat belts are different, your child may be ready to ride in a seat belt in some cars, but they may need a booster in others.

Seat belts

Children should ride in the back seat using a lap and shoulder belt until age 13. It's the law to buckle up.

