



Booster Seat Safety Tips

Everything you need to know about kids in booster seats.

Kids who have outgrown their car seats are not quite ready for a seat belt alone – although they might try to convince you otherwise. Instead, have them move to a booster seat that makes the adult seat belt fit properly when they have outgrown the car seat. Booster seats can actually be pretty cool. Here are a few tips to make sure your kids are ready for and safe in a booster seat.

- When your child is seated in the booster seat, make sure the lap belt fits low across the hips and the shoulder belt is across the shoulders
- Do not place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back. Return your child to a car seat if you cannot get a good fit of the seat belt when using the booster seat.
- Older kids get weighed and measured less often than babies, so check your child's growth a few times a year. Generally, kids need to use a booster until they are about 4 feet 9 inches tall and weigh between 80 and 100 pounds.
- Talk with the drivers who transport your big kids so they understand that booster seat use is a must when your child is in their vehicles.



- Keep using a booster seat with the vehicle lap AND shoulder safety belts until your child passes the following Safety Belt Fit Test:
 - The child's knees should bend at the edge of the seat when his or her back and bottom are against the vehicle seat back; and
 - The vehicle lap belt should fit across the upper thighs; and
 - The shoulder belt should fit across the shoulder and chest. Children are usually between 8 and 12 years old when the seat belt fits them properly.

Children seated in a booster seat in the back seat of the car are 45% less likely to be injured in a crash than children using a seat belt alone.

