Booster Seat Tips

- Use a booster seat with the vehicle lap AND shoulder belt until your child passes the 5-Step Test.
- Vehicle seat belts are designed to fit an adult who is at least 4 feet 9 inches tall. Many children will be between 8 and 12 years old before they meet this height requirement. To get the best protection from the seat belt, children usually need a booster seat.
- Use a booster seat correctly in a back seat every time your child rides in a car.
- Kids need to use a booster until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall and the lap and shoulder belt fit correctly.
- The lap belt should be low over the top of the thighs. Shoulder belt should cross the shoulder between neck and arm.
- Booster seats are not installed the same way as car seats. Booster seats sit on the vehicle seat and are used to properly position the adult seat belt for an older child.
- A booster seat uses no harness. You must use a booster with the vehicle's lap AND shoulder belt, NOT a lap belt only.
- Never place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back.
- Tell all drivers who transport your child that booster seat use is a must when your child rides in any vehicle.
- Be sure all occupants wear seat belts correctly every time. Children learn from adult role models.
- Treat seat belts as you would any cord or rope. Do not allow children to play with them at any time.

Source: Safe Kids, www.safekids.usa

Take the 5-Step Test

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?

2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle?

3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?

4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?

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 belt and the lap belt fit right for the best crash protection. Your child will be more comfortable, too!

Source: SafetyBeltSafe, U.S.A, www.carseat.org

Passenger Safety

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