

Booster Seats

Belt-Positioning Booster Seats

- Booster seats simply “boost” a child up so that the adult seat belt fits better – the shoulder belt should lie across the middle of the chest over the collarbone, and the lap belt should be under the belly, over the thighs.
- It’s typically best to wait until your child is at least 40 pounds to move him into a booster seat.
- Two types:
 1. Backless Booster – a base only that can be used when the vehicle seat provides head support as shown here →→
 2. Highback Booster – a base w/back that should be used with a vehicle seat that doesn’t provide head support. Some hb boosters have “wings” at the top of the seat that cradle the head; these can be useful for a sleeping child. Most have a belt guide at shoulder level for the seat belt. See picture below.



Does Your Child Need a Booster Seat? Take this simple 5-Step Test!

Have your child get ready for a “pretend” ride by sitting in the car and buckling up with the lap & shoulder belt in the back seat then answer the following the questions:

1. Is the child sitting tall so his/her whole back is touching the vehicle seatback? (If no, please ask the child to move all the way back)
2. Do the child’s knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
3. Does the seat belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt touching the tops of the legs and not riding up over the stomach?
5. Can the child sit like this for the whole trip?

If the answer to any of these questions is “no,” the child needs a booster seat to ride safely in the vehicle!

