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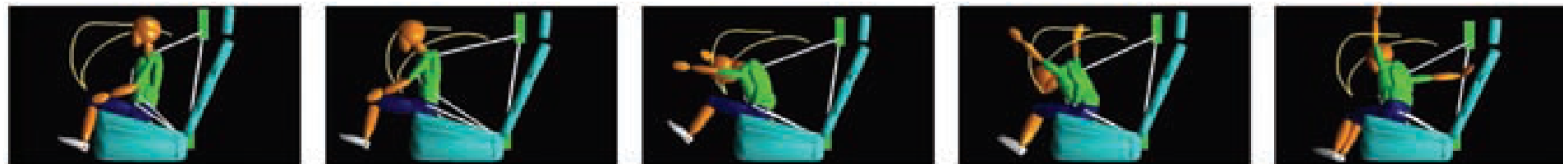
CENTER FOR INJURY
RESEARCH AND PREVENTION

Restraint of a 6-year-old in a Motor Vehicle Crash: Booster Seat vs. Lap and Shoulder Belt

Correct restraint: The simulation below shows there is minimal movement of a 6-year-old child properly restrained in a belt-positioning booster seat during a 35 m.p.h. crash.



Incorrect restraint: The same child, improperly restrained in an adult seat belt and scooted forward on the seat, is thrown forward dramatically in the same crash. The inappropriate fit of the seat belt puts the child at risk for severe head, spine and abdominal injury.



Children who have outgrown the highest weight or height limit allowed by their forward-facing child safety seat with a harness should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt (adult seat belt) fits properly. This typically occurs when a child reaches 4 feet 9 inches in height and is between 8 and 12 years of age.