

TRAVEL SAFE: BOOSTER SEATS



WHO should use a belt-positioning booster seat?

- Your child needs a booster seat when they've reached the maximum weight or height allowed for their harnessed car seat, their shoulders are above the top harness slot or their ears have reached the top of the seat.
- Your child must be at least 4 years old and 40 pounds, sometimes more, to transition to a booster. We recommend following manufacturers' guidelines and waiting until your child is mature enough to remain properly positioned for the length of the ride.

WHAT is a belt-positioning booster seat?

- A booster seat raises your child, positioning the vehicle's lap-and-shoulder belt correctly.

WHY should I use a booster seat?

- Seat belts were designed to fit adults. Children are too small for the seat belt to fit correctly.
- In a crash, a seat belt worn **incorrectly** can cause serious internal injuries and spine fractures.
- Booster seats prevent injuries by properly positioning the seat belt on your child.



WHERE should my child use their booster seat?

- Put the booster in the rear seat with a lap-and-shoulder belt. Never use a lap-only belt.

HOW to use a booster:

- Read the vehicle and booster seat owner's manuals.
- Sit your child in the booster, pull the lap-and-shoulder belt across them, and buckle it.
- The shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest and shoulder, and the lap belt fits low on the hips, touching the thighs.



WHEN can my child transition to a seat belt?

- Keep your child in a booster until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall, usually between 8 and 12 years old.
- Your child must be able to sit all the way back in the vehicle seat with their knees bent comfortably over the seat's edge and feet flat on the floor.
- Make sure the shoulder belt lies across the chest, not at the neck or face.
- Make sure the lap belt is low and snug across the thighs, not on the belly.
- Be sure they can stay seated like this for the entire trip.

TIPS for when your child says they are too big for a booster:

- Let them choose their own booster seat and teach them how to buckle up.
- Show them how the booster helps them sit more comfortably and see out of the window.
- Do not refer to the booster as a child seat or car seat.
- Remind your child that even if other kids are not using a booster, you are looking out for their safety.



Scan the QR code or visit
www.chop.edu/car-seat-checks for
personalized help with your car seat.

To learn more about booster seats or
CHOP's Injury Prevention Program, contact
267-426-5000 or visit www.chop.edu/carseat