

FOR YOUR family

Belt-positioning Booster Seats: *Easy to Use, Affordable and Safe*

When your child reaches the top weight or height for his child safety seat, his shoulders are above the harness slots or his ears have reached the top of his child safety seat, he needs a booster seat. A booster seat raises your child up so that the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt fits him correctly.

How do you use a booster seat?

- Read the booster seat and vehicle user manuals.
- Place the booster seat in the back seat in a position with a lap/shoulder belt. Never use a booster seat if there is only a lap belt.
- After your child sits in the booster, pull the lap/shoulder belt across him and buckle the seat belt.
- Check to see if the belt crosses the shoulder between the neck and arm and that the lap belt is low and snug on the hips, just touching the thighs.



What type of booster is best?

- Use a backless booster seat if the back seat of your car has head rests or a high seat back. Otherwise, choose a high-back booster seat.
- Prices start at \$20 for a backless booster. More expensive seats are not necessarily safer.

How effective are boosters? Why aren't seat belts good enough?

- Belt-positioning boosters are safest for your school-age child in a crash. Any restraint is better than no restraint, but boosters are 60 percent safer than seat belts alone. In a crash, poor-fitting seat belts can result in serious injury to a child's abdomen, neck and head.
- Seat belts are made to fit adults. Until your child is big enough, he needs a boost.

What to do if your child says, "But I'm a big kid now!"

- Tell your child that the car will not move until everybody is buckled up correctly.
- Let your child select his booster seat, and teach him how to buckle himself up.
- Show your child that the booster will let him see out the window better and help make the seat belt comfortable.
- Tell your child that boosters are for "big kids." Don't call a booster seat a child's seat.



When is it safe to move my child from his booster seat to an adult seat belt?

Your child should stay in a booster seat until the adult seat belt fits — usually when he is about 4'9" in height and is 8 to 12 years old. The seat belt fits properly when:

- The shoulder belt lies across the chest, not the neck or face.
- The lap belt is low and snug across the thighs, not across the stomach; and
- The child is tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with his legs bent at the knees and feet hanging down.

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

