



BOOSTER SEAT

When to Use a Booster Seat

A booster seat should be used for children who have outgrown the harnessed forward-facing seat but are not yet big enough or mature enough to independently and safely use a seatbelt

How Do Booster Seats Work?

- Raises and positions the child so the lap and shoulder belts fit properly
- Allows the child to bend their knees over the booster seat so the lap belt fits snug across the hips and upper thighs, and the shoulder belt across the chest
- Positioning the belt over the hips is important to prevent positioning over the soft belly, which can lead to serious injury (seat belt syndrome) during a crash
- When children are too small to use a seat belt correctly they may position the belt under their arm, which removes upper body protection during the crash

Types of Booster Seats

- **High Back:** best for vehicle seats that have a low seat back or do not have a head restraint. Provide additional support for head, neck, and spine. May also ease the transition from harnessed restraint to seatbelt restraint.
- **Backless:** Must only be used in vehicle seats that have head restraints, to ensure proper support of head, neck, and spine. Often come with a seatbelt adjuster to assist with appropriate positioning.
- **Combination all-in-one:** May be forward-facing seat, high-back booster, or backless booster

Tips for Correct Use

- Never use a booster seat with a lap-only belt
- The top of the child's ears should not be above the back of the vehicle seat
- Child should sit with back and bottom flat against the seat back
- Shoulder belt guide or positioner should be at or just above the child's shoulder