



BOOSTER SEAT TALKING POINTS

- Children **under** age 8 must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.
- Children age 8 or **older** may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.
- A seat belt fits a child properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. (Best to demonstrate this with the whole “fit test.”)
- For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or the driver can be fined more than \$475 and get a point added to their driving records.
- Booster seats increase your child’s chance of surviving a crash by 45 percent.
- Most children will be able to use the booster seat they already have or you can purchase boosters for 15-20 dollars at major retailers.
- (If you have time) If the belt crosses the child's stomach instead of the hip bones, the child risks damage to internal organs and/or a spinal cord injury if involved in a collision.
- In fact, it’s safest to keep kids properly restrained in the back seat until they turn 13 years old. It’s the safest place in a crash.

For Demonstration:

- se both the lap and shoulder belts. U
- our child should be tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with his knees bent without slouching, and comfortably stay in this position throughout the trip. Y
- he lap belt should rest comfortably below the hip bones, and be snug. T
- he shoulder belt should cross the center of your child's shoulder and not cut across the neck or face. T

- ever let your child put the shoulder belt behind his back or under the arm. If he does, this is a sign that he may need a booster seat.

For questions about how to get your child back into a booster:

- When put in a booster most kids are more comfortable. They can see out the window better and the shoulder belt isn't on their face or neck.
- All their friends will have to be in a booster seat, too.
- It is the law and parents can get a very expensive ticket if their child is not in a booster.
- It is just another thing we have to enforce as parents – doing homework, going to bed on time, wearing a jacket when it's cold. Once the kids see that it is a non-negotiable rule, they get used to it.

For more information or to have your child checked to see if he/she fits into an adult seat belt go to (list your local resources here)

See FAQ sheet for more information.