

# Belt-Positioning Booster Seat Basics



High-Back  
Belt-Positioning  
Booster Seat



Backless  
Belt-Positioning  
Booster Seat

## Selection

- ◆ When children outgrow the forward-facing car seat, secure them in a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt until the seat belt fits correctly, typically when a child is approximately 4 feet 9 inches tall and between 8 and 12 years of age.
- ◆ Select a booster seat that positions the vehicle's lap belt low and snug across the hips/upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the center of the child's shoulder and chest.
- ◆ Booster seats lower the risk of injury for children age 4 to 8 by 45% compared to children using the seat belt alone.

## Direction - Location

- ◆ Place the belt-positioning booster seat forward-facing and flat on a seating position with a lap and shoulder belt in the vehicle seat.
- ◆ Confirm the child's ears are not above the back of the vehicle seat or the top of the booster seat's head restraint.
- ◆ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.
  - ◆ If a booster seat is used in the front seat, move the front seat back as far as possible.

## Pennsylvania Law

All drivers transporting children 4 years of age or older but under 8 years of age are responsible to securely restrain those children in a seat belt system and an appropriately fitting child booster seat. (Primary Law)

## Seat Belt Adjustment and Fit



- ◆ Use a lap and shoulder belt with belt-positioning booster seats.
- ◆ Some high-back booster seats have adjustable seat backs.
  - ◆ Adjust the booster seat back or shoulder belt positioner level with or just above the child's shoulders, following the car seat instructions.
- ◆ Lap belt positioned low, across the child's hips, touching the upper thighs.
- ◆ Shoulder belt placed across the center of the child's chest and shoulder.
  - ◆ The shoulder belt is in contact with the child's shoulder.
- ◆ Seat belt is routed correctly through the booster seat belt path.



## Installation

- ◆ Check the car seat instructions for information on securing the booster seat.
- ◆ Most booster seats rest on the vehicle seat and are not locked in place
- ◆ Some booster seats have lower anchors to position and keep the booster seat in place. Some booster seats may also permit use of a tether.
- ◆ The lower anchor connectors secure the booster seat and the seat belt secures the child. Lower anchor weight limits do not apply to booster seats.
- ◆ Thread the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts through the correct belt path and buckle.



## Selection

- ◆ When children outgrow the belt-positioning booster seat, secure them in a properly fitted lap and shoulder belt.
- ◆ A lap and shoulder belt fits correctly when the lap belt lays low and snug across the hips, touching the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the center of the chest and shoulder.
- ◆ Secure all children younger than 13 years in the back seat of vehicles for best protection.
  - ◆ If a child is secured in the front seat, move the vehicle seat back as far as possible.
- ◆ The lap and shoulder seat belts reduce risk of injury by 45%.

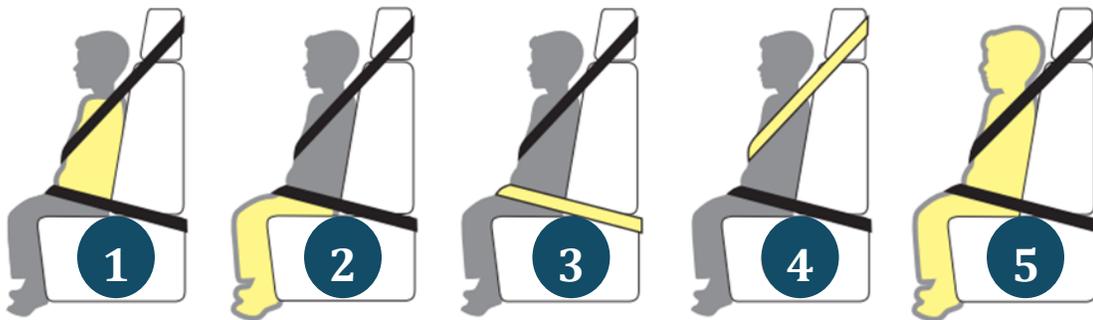


## Seat Belt Safety



Vehicle Seat Belts Can Be Used to Safely Secure a Child in the Back Seat of a Vehicle When the Child Can Be Appropriately Positioned in the Seat Belt.

Consider the Following Questions to Determine When the Child is Ready for a Seat Belt



1	Can the child keep their back against the vehicle seat without slouching?
2	Can the child keep their knees naturally bent over the edge of the vehicle seat with their feet flat on the floor?
3	Does the lap belt lie snugly low, across the hips, touching the upper thighs, not the stomach?
4	Does the shoulder belt lie snugly across the center of the shoulder and chest, and not across the neck or face?
5	Can the child stay comfortably seated with the lap and shoulder belt correctly positioned for the entire trip?

A head restraint that is too low or far back will not protect your head and neck in a crash.

