

# Booster Seat Basics



After outgrowing their forward-facing car seat, Pennsylvania Law requires children sit in a belt-positioning booster seat until age 8. Seat belts were created for adults, and this law is meant to **KEEP CHILDREN SAFE** by ensuring the seat belt fits their small bodies correctly.

Adjust the head restraint height so the shoulder belt guides are at or slightly above the top of the child's shoulders.

Shoulder belt is placed across the center of the chest and shoulder and in contact with the child's shoulder.

Lap belt is positioned low, across the child's hips, touching the upper thighs.



Position the height of the booster seat or vehicle seat head restraint to provide support for the child's head. The child's head should not be above the top of the booster seat's head restraint or the back of the vehicle seat/head restraint.

## MORE SAFETY TIPS

- By law, a child must remain in a booster seat until age 8. Best practice recommends children ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until they are **4'9" TALL** (57") and between **8 TO 12 YEARS OLD**.
- **ALWAYS USE A LAP AND SHOULDER BELT** to secure a child seated in a belt-positioning booster seat.
- **READ YOUR INSTRUCTION MANUAL** for more information on securing the booster seat.
  - Many booster seats rest on the vehicle seat and are not locked in place, while some have lower anchors to position and keep the booster seat in place.
  - Lower anchors on a booster seat secure the booster seat and the seat belt secures the child. Lower anchor weight limits do not apply to booster seats.

**BOOSTER SEATS** reduce the risk of injury for children age 4 - 8 years by 45% compared to using a seat belt alone.

**Be your child's first role model: Buckle up, every trip, every time.**

Traffic Injury  
Prevention  
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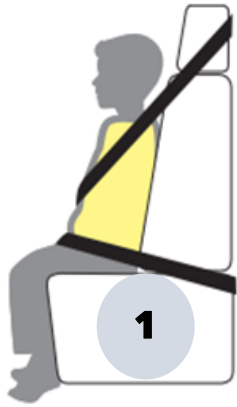


For more information on car seat, booster seat, and seat belt safety, or to find a car seat check near you, call 1-800-CAR BELT or visit [www.PAKidsTravelSafe.org](http://www.PAKidsTravelSafe.org).

# Vehicle Seat Belt Basics



Pennsylvania Law requires children remain in a booster seat until age 8, but **BEST PRACTICE** is to keep children in a belt-positioning booster seat until they are both big enough and mature enough to properly fit a vehicle seat belt.



1

Without slouching, their back is in contact with the vehicle seat when seated.



2

Their knees bend over the front edge of the vehicle seat and their feet are flat on the floor.



3

The lap belt lies low and snug across the hips, touching the upper thighs.



4

The shoulder belt lies snugly across the center of the chest and shoulder.



5

The child can stay seated with the lap and shoulder belt correctly positioned for the entire trip.

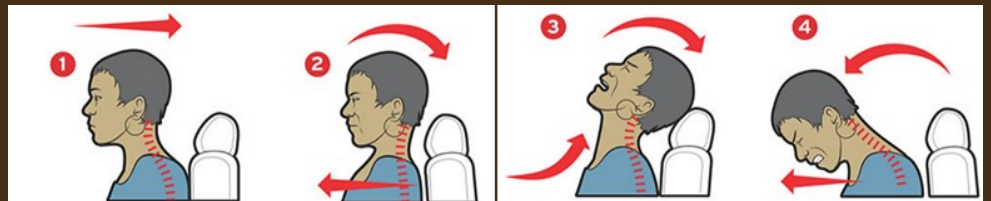
## MORE SAFETY TIPS

- Children under age 13 should ride in the back seat for best protection. If a child is in the front seat, move the vehicle seat back as far as possible with the shoulder belt in contact with the child's shoulder.
- The child's ears are not above the back of the vehicle seat or **HEAD RESTRAINT**. If the head restraint is adjustable, change the height so it is positioned behind the child's head.

**SEAT BELTS** increase your chances of surviving a crash by up to 60%

## CORRECT HEAD RESTRAINT

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



The four images illustrate a typical impact.

**HEAD RESTRAINTS** are commonly referred to as head rests!

Traffic Injury  
Prevention  
Project



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