

## BOOSTER SEATS

### BOOSTER SEAT RULES

- Booster seats are best used after the child weighs at least 40 pounds, using a lap AND shoulder belt. The child should remain in a 5-point harness car seat until they weigh 50-80 lbs.
- You may use a booster seat until the manufacturer's recommended weight and height limit, or until your child can wear a seatbelt properly, usually around 8-12 years old.
- The shoulder belt should cross the center of the shoulder and chest, not rest on the neck.
- A lap belt should be high on the thighs or low on the hips, not on the tummy.
- Use a high-back booster seat if your vehicle has low seat backs with no head rests. Some models may offer increased side impact protection as well.
- A backless booster seat can be used if your child is 4 years old and at least 40 lbs., AND if the vehicle has head restraints. There should be plenty of room from the top of your child's ears up to the top of the seat back.
- Many booster seats have adjustable head supports and extra padding for added comfort.
- Use the built-in shoulder belt guide if the shoulder belt doesn't fit correctly.
- Make sure the booster seat is buckled in at all times, even when the child is not in the seat. It can become a projectile if not secured.
- Thoroughly read the owner's manuals for your vehicle and car seat

**Kids ages 12 and under should ALWAYS ride in the back seat. This cuts their risk of death by 36 percent. It is the safest place, whether or not your vehicle has an airbag in the front seat.**

### IS MY CHILD READY TO SIT WITHOUT A BOOSTER SEAT?

Use this 5-step test:

1. Child's back is against the auto seat
2. Child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat
3. Shoulder belt is between the shoulder and neck
4. Lap belt sits as low as possible, on top of thighs
5. Child should be able to remain seated for the whole trip

**If you answered "no" to any of these steps, your child should remain in a booster seat for their safety.**