



## WHY WE USE BOOSTER SEATS

Seat belts are not designed for children. Young children are too small for seat belts and too large for toddler seats. A booster seat raises your child up so that the seat belt fits right—and can better protect your child. The shoulder belt should cross the child's chest and rest snugly on the shoulder, and the lap belt should rest low across the pelvis or hip area—never across the stomach area. Your child's ears shouldn't be higher than the vehicle's seat back cushion or the back of a high-back booster seat.

Need help with your booster seat? Visit a child safety seat inspection station or a certified child passenger safety technician near you. To find one, go to [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps) and click on the Child Safety Seat Inspections button or call 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).



More than 40% of children under eight who die or suffer incapacitating injuries in fatal crashes are completely unrestrained. (NHTSA)

Booster seats can be purchased at many large toy and other retail stores.



For more information about booster seats and other child passenger safety issues, go to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) web site at: [www.gohs.state.ga.us](http://www.gohs.state.ga.us) or call GOHS's toll-free 1-888-420-0767.



### 4 STEPS FOR KIDS

1	2	3	4
INFANT	TODDLER	BOOSTER	SEAT BELT

# STEP 3

## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO BUYING AND USING Booster Seats



### 4 STEPS FOR KIDS

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Most kids age 4 to 8 need booster seats

# When do you use a booster seat?

**After your child outgrows the child safety seat.**

Children who have outgrown child safety seats should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are at least eight years old, unless they are 4'9" tall.

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

1



**REAR-FACING INFANT SEATS** in the back seat from birth to at least one year old and at least 20 pounds

2



**FORWARD-FACING TODDLER SEATS** in the back seat from age one to about age four and 20 to 40 pounds

3



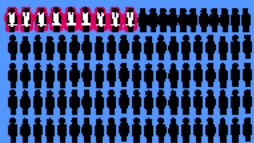
**BOOSTER SEATS** in the back seat from about age four and 40 pounds to at least age eight, unless 4'9"

4



**SEAT BELTS** at age eight or older or taller than 4'9". All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

Less than 10% of children ages 4–8 use booster seats



## TYPES OF BOOSTER SEATS YOU CAN USE



### HIGH-BACK BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEATS

Two types of high-back belt-positioning booster seats are available. This type of seat "boosts" your child up so the vehicle seat belt fits better.

- One is used only with a lap/shoulder belt and provides head and neck support for your child if your vehicle seat back does not have a head restraint.
- The other converts from a forward-facing toddler seat to a booster seat and comes equipped with a harness. This type can be used as a forward-facing toddler seat when your child is age one to about age four and at least 20 to about 40 pounds. When your child outgrows the toddler seat, remove the harness to use the seat as a booster seat with the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt. When using the harness, the seats are attached using the vehicle seat belt system and a top tether anchor, if the vehicle has one, or attached with the LATCH system (for Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children).

### NO-BACK BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEAT

These seats are used with a lap/shoulder belt. They are for use in vehicles with built-in head restraints.

All booster seats are required by law to comply with the same safety standards as child safety seats. Your booster seat must have a label stating that it meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR BOOSTER SEATS

- \* Always use both the lap AND shoulder belt—never just a lap belt.
- \* The shoulder belt should never be placed behind a child's back or under the arm. If you do, your child could be seriously injured or killed in a crash.
- \* Replace a booster seat that has been in a crash—the seat might have defects that you can't see.

Georgia law only requires children to be in a child restraint system up to age 5 so, many parents assume older kids are safe in just a seat belt. However, all children need to be restrained correctly whenever they ride in a motor vehicle.

**REMEMBER:** Fill out and return the product registration card so you can be notified in case of a recall.