



Child Passenger Safety Seat Checklist: Young Child in Belt-positioning Booster Seat (4 years and up)

The information below is a general reference. Read the manual for your safety seat for more information.

Check Point	What to look for	Other tips
Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-back booster seat - No-back or backless booster seat - All-in-one safety seat with five-point harness stored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booster seats upper weight limits of 80 to over 120 lbs. - If the vehicle seat does not have a headrest, use a high-back booster seat. Many booster seats require child be at least four years old. - Other options include travel vests. - Check expiration and register seat.
Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forward-facing 	Best Practice – keep child in five-point harness for as long as possible; child must fit in limits of safety seat.
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannot use in seating position with lap belt only. - Install in back seat of vehicle - Law – Child to use a safety device until they turn 8 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must use in seating position with a lap and shoulder belt. - If there is no back seat, can use in front seat and move seat back as far as possible from dashboard. - Best practice – Use booster seat until seat belt properly fits the child.
Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child and seat belt hold booster seat in place. - Booster seat may have LATCH attachments to hold booster seat in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the booster seat does not have LATCH to hold the seat in place, secure the booster seat when not in use by placing in trunk of vehicle or using seat belt to hold booster seat in place.
Harnessing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seat belt is positioned properly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lap portion is low and snug across the top of the thighs and hips, not across the stomach or abdomen - Shoulder portion rests across the chest and between the neck and shoulder, not across neck or face - Use seat belt guides if built into booster seat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If child cannot stay in an upright-seated position or keep the seat belt properly placed throughout the ride, consider using a forward-facing safety seat with a five-point harness if the child fits the height and weight limits. - Booster seat properly positions the seat belt on the strongest parts of the child’s body (hips and shoulders). Backless boosters comes with a seat belt adjustor to position the chest portion of the seat belt. - Warm clothes such as puffy jackets or bulky sweaters should be placed over the child.

Where to find help

- www.safetyseatva.org to find a Safety Seat Check Station for installation education.
- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/search-safety-issues#recall> for vehicle or safety recalls
- 1-800-732-8333 or ivp@vdh.virginia.gov with general questions
- 1-800-755-0912 for the National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs.



Dev. 10/2022



Best practices for injury prevention:

The forward-facing safety seat offers more protection than a booster seat. Children should use a forward-facing seat until they outgrow it by weight or height. The harness protects the child in a crash by holding them in the seat. The harness spreads the crash forces across a larger area than a seat belt. Once a child outgrows the forward-facing safety seat by weight or height, start using a belt positioning safety seat or booster seat. The booster seat positions the seat belt properly on the child. The lap portion of the seat belt is low across the hips, not on the stomach. The shoulder portion goes across the chest; it is not on the neck or off the shoulder. Children should continue using a booster seat until they fit the seat belt properly to reduce the risk of injury. Be sure to set a good example by making sure all passengers buckle up for every trip, every time.

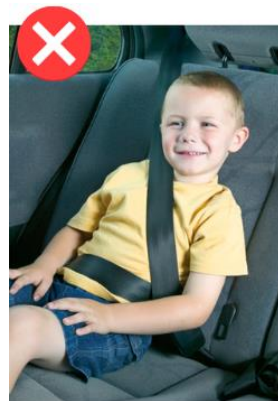
The seat belt fits properly when:

- Child is able to sit with their back against the seat.
- The child’s knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat cushion. Their feet rest flat on the floor without slouching.
- The shoulder portion rests across the child’s chest. It is not off the shoulder or on the neck.
- The lap portion fits low and snug across the hips, touching the upper thighs. It is not across the stomach.
- The child can sit in this position for the duration of the trip.

Installation Tips:

When used correctly, the booster seat keeps the lap belt off the stomach and across the upper thighs, and the shoulder portion off the neck. The booster seat may have built in seatbelt guides to follow. See example to the right.

The seatbelt should only be worn by one person; never shared. The lap and shoulder belt should always be used correctly, not placed behind the child’s back or under their arm. Children should not wear a backpack while being transported in a vehicle. See examples below.



Dev. 10/2022