

# Make sure your child is always buckled in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is appropriate for their age and size.



## REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

### Birth until age 2–4

Buckle children in a rear-facing car seat with a harness until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible. Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat. Front passenger air bags can injure or kill young children in a crash.



## FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

### After outgrowing rear-facing car seat and until at least age 5

When children outgrow their rear-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and a top tether in the back seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat.



## BOOSTER SEAT

### After outgrowing forward-facing car seat and until seat belt fits properly

When children outgrow their forward-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat in the back seat until the seat belt fits properly without a booster seat. Proper seat belt fit usually occurs when children are age 9–12.



## SEAT BELT

### When seat belt fits properly without a booster seat

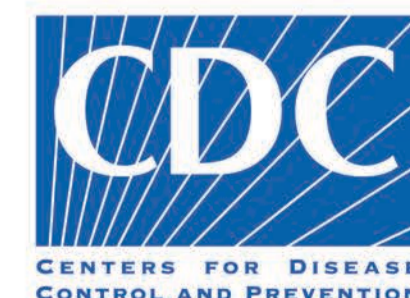
Children no longer need to use a booster seat when the seat belt fits them properly. A seat belt fits properly when the lap belt is across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt is across the center of the shoulder and chest (not across the neck or face, and not off the shoulder).

## Keep children properly buckled in the back seat until age 13.

\*Recommended age ranges for each seat type vary to account for differences in child growth and weight/height limits of car seats and booster seats. Use the car seat or booster seat manual to check for important information about installation, the seat weight and height limits, and proper seat use.

Child passenger safety recommendations: American Academy of Pediatrics 2018.

[www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child\\_passenger\\_safety](http://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/child_passenger_safety)



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