

# Boost Ohio's Kids

Ohio's child passenger law changed in 2009 to better protect children on Ohio's roadways. The change requires that children under 8 years old must be properly restrained in a booster seat or other appropriate car seat unless they are 4'9" or taller. Be sure to follow your seat manufacturer's specific instructions for weight limits and proper use.

## Ohio's Kids Need Booster Seats Because:

- Safety belts are not designed for children under 4'9".
- Beginning at age 4, many children are too large for car seats and too small for adult seat belts.
- Booster seats raise your child up so that the safety belt fits properly:
  - o Shoulder belts should cross the chest, not the neck.
  - o Lap belts should rest on the hip or pelvis, never on the stomach.

Growth chart downloaded from <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>

Cover photo downloaded from <http://www.thatcuteage.com>



## Booster Seat Choices

- **Backless Boosters:** May be used as long as a child has head and neck support from the vehicle's seat back.
- **Highback Boosters:** May be used as long as child's ears are not above the booster back.
- **All booster seats** must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.

## Four Steps to Safety:

**Using a booster seat is only one part of protecting your children as they ride with you through the years.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recommend parents use the following four steps to keep their children safe.

### Step 1 - Rear Facing Car Seat

*- placed in the back seat*

The AAP recommends that children ride in a rear-facing seat until they reach the upper height and weight limits of their seat or until they're 2 years old. Riding rear facing is safest for infants and toddlers! Ohio law requires that young children be properly restrained in a car seat.



### Step 2 - Forward Facing Car Seat

*- placed in the back seat*

Once children outgrow their rear-facing seat, Ohio law requires that children less than 4 years old and 40 pounds be properly secured in a car seat. It is best for children to remain in a forward-facing car seat with an internal harness until they reach the upper height and weight limit for their car seat.



### Step 3 - Booster Seat

*- placed in the back seat*

Once children reach the upper limit of their forward-facing car seat, Ohio law requires that children ride in a booster seat until they are at least 4'9" tall or 8 years old. They can move to a seat belt when the lap belt lies across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually between 8-12 years of age or when they are 4'9" tall).

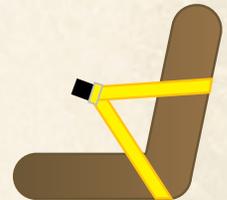


### Step 4 - Adult Seat Belt

*- in the back seat until*

*they're at least 13 years old*

Children who have outgrown their booster seats should ride in the back seat until they're at least 13 years old. Ohio law requires children aged 8-15 years, who are not secured in a car seat or booster seat, to be secured by the vehicle seat belt. Of course, the safest thing is for all passengers over 8 years of age to wear their seat belt on every ride!



## Protect Your Children at Every Age



Rear facing

Children should ride rear facing until they're two years old.



Forward Facing

To stay safe, children should stay in their car seats as long as possible.



Booster Seat

Booster seats should always be used with a lap and shoulder belt.



Adult Seat Belt

Children should ride in the backseat until they're 13 years old.

## Boost Ohio's Kids 4'9" or 8 years old

### Adult Seat Belts

Your child is ready for an adult seat belt if all the following apply:

- The child is tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with his/her knees bent at the edge of the seat without slouching.
- The shoulder belt lies in the middle of his/her chest and shoulder, not his/her neck or throat.
- The lap belt is low and snug across the upper thighs, not the belly.
- The child can stay in this position comfortably throughout the entire trip.

### Questions?

Call 1-800-755-GROW (4769) for information on a Child Passenger Safety Program near you.

Funded by U.S. DOT/NHTSA and ODPS/OCJS



Ohio Department of Health  
Violence And Injury Prevention Program