

# Kids Should Be in Booster Seats Until the Seat Belt Fits

usually until they are between 8 to 10 years old.

Connecticut law requires children to be in a booster seat until they reach a minimum of 60 pounds **and** they turn 7 years old.

If your vehicle has a low back seat and your child's ears are above it, you need a high back booster seat to protect her head.

A booster seat makes the lap and shoulder belt fit correctly: fitting on the collar bone and hip bones.

Booster seats **must** be used with a seat belt that has a lap and shoulder belt, not just a lap belt. Kids this size are too small to fit correctly in an adult seat belt alone.

Violators of the Connecticut car seat law must pay a fine and attend a 2-hour educational car seat class at the Department of Motor Vehicles.



# Booster Seats Are For Big Kids.

Did you know most kids need to ride in a booster seat from about age 4 until at least age 8?

If your child isn't using a booster seat, try this simple test the next time you ride in a car together.

## The 5-Step Test

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
3. Does the seat belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to ride safely in the car. Kids like boosters because they are more comfortable, too!

For more information on car seats or to find out where to get your car seat checked in your area, please contact:

**Safe Kids Connecticut** (860) 837-5318

To get more information on the Safe Kids coalition in your area, please go to  
[www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org)

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# Only 1 Out of 5 Car Seats in Connecticut is Used Properly.

Here's how  
to keep your  
kids safe  
in the car!



# Infants Should Be in Rear-Facing Car Seats Until They Are 2 Years Old

or until they reach the height or the weight limit of their car seat.

CT law requires infants to ride rear-facing until they are a **minimum** of one year old and 20 pounds.

Route harness straps in lower slots at or below shoulder level.

Keep harness straps snug and fasten harness clip at armpit level.



Use lower anchors or seatbelt, but not both. Check car seat manual if top tether use is necessary.

Infants *must* ride in the back seat facing the rear of the vehicle. This offers the best protection for your infant's head, neck and spine.

# Make Sure Your Child is Riding Safely.

Below are "To Do" lists for in the car and at home.

## In the Car "To Do" List:

- ✓ Attach my car seat using either the seat belt or the LATCH, but not both.
- ✓ If my car seat is forward-facing, I've attached the top tether strap to the tether anchor.
- ✓ My car seat does not move more than 1 inch side-to-side when I pull on it. (Test it at the belt path—where the seat belt or LATCH belt enters the car seat.)

## In the Home "To Do" List:

- ✓ Make an appointment to get my car seat checked by a certified car seat technician. Visit [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) for information on your closest fitting station.
- ✓ Check to make sure my car seat is not recalled. [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov) or 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).
- ✓ Mail in my car seat registration card to the manufacturer so any information on recalls will be sent directly to me.
- ✓ I am not using a car seat that has been in a CRASH. For NHTSA's (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) recommendation on use of a car seat after a crash, <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/childps/ChildRestraints/ReUse/index.htm> or call your car seat manufacturer.



Visit [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) for more information.

# Toddlers Should Be Forward-Facing Only After They Outgrow Their Rear-Facing Car Seats.

Attach the top tether strap to the tether anchor (tether anchors are available in most cars 2002 or newer).  
Fasten harness clip at armpit level.

Read owner's manual for information on which harness slots should be used forward-facing. Keep harness straps snug.



**Keep Kids in Car Seats Longer:**  
Even kids 4 years old and older should remain in a car seat until they reach the height or weight limit of their car seat. Once reached, then kids can be in a booster seat.