

IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

RESTRAINT USE

AGE / SIZE



Rear-facing in an infant or convertible car seat

Birth to at least 2 years old



Forward-facing car seat with an internal harness

At least 2 years old AND has outgrown the rear-facing car seat by height or weight



Booster seat using the vehicle lap belt and shoulder belt

At least 4 years old AND has outgrown the forward-facing car seat by height or weight



Vehicle seat using the vehicle lap belt and shoulder belt

At least 9 years old or has outgrown the booster seat, AND the child can pass the 5-Step Test

If a child fits in more than one category, place them in the more protective category (*rear-facing being most protective*).

Children under the age of 13 must sit in a back seat, *if possible*.

Every driver who transports a child under the age of 18 years in a motor vehicle, is required to have the child restrained in a car seat or seat belt.

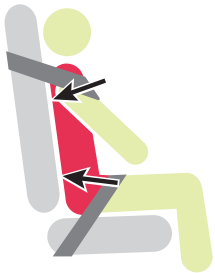
5-STEP TEST →



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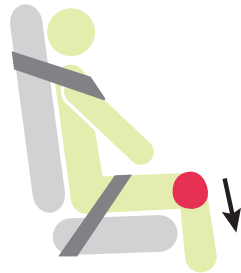
THE 5-STEP TEST

The 5-Step Test is a way to know when a child can ride without a booster seat. A child can safely ride on the vehicle seat with the lap and shoulder belt when the child can do ALL 5 steps.



1

The child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat



2

Their knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat



3

The lap belt fits snugly across the hips near the top of the thighs, **NOT THE ABDOMEN**



4

The shoulder belt snugly crosses the center of the chest & shoulder, **NOT THE NECK**



5

The child sits correctly, without slouching, for the entire ride

Changes to the Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Law went into effect August 1, 2024 (state statute 169.685).

The new law gives best practice guidance to caregivers on car seats, booster seats and seat belts for safely transporting children.



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