

# 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 child safety seats and too small for adult seat belts.
- Booster seats raise your child up so that the safety belt fits properly:
  - Shoulder belts should cross the chest, not the neck.
  - Lap belts should rest on the hip or pelvis, never the stomach.
- It's Ohio's law!
- A booster seat is designed to place a child higher on the vehicle seat so that the lap/shoulder belt fits correctly.



4'9" or 8 years



## Protect Your Children As They Ride!

**The back seat is the safest!**  
Children under 13 years old  
should ride in the back seat.

# Boost Ohio's Kids

## Questions?

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

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/hpr/cpsafe/cpsafety.aspx>

Ohio Department of Health  
Violence and Injury Prevention Program





**Ohio Law....**  
The operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on a booster seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.



## 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 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.

## Ohio's Child Passenger Law Has Changed

**(Effective Oct. 7, 2009)**

Children under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat\* unless they are 4'9" or taller.

Follow the seat manufacturer's instructions for weight limits and proper use.

Children from 8 to 15 years old who are not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.

## Booster Seat Choices

- **Backless Boosters:** May be used as long as a child has head support from the vehicle's seat back. (Think whiplash.)
- **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.

**Ohio law requires all children up to 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" tall, to be restrained in a booster seat once they outgrow their child safety seat.**