

# Give your child a BOOST

KSA 8-1343

## 4 Steps for Kids



### 1 Birth - 12 months

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.



### 2 1 - 3 years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

## Children ages 4 - 7 years

All children ages 4, 5, 6, and 7 are required to ride in a car seat or booster seat unless:

- the child weighs more than 80 pounds, or
- the child is taller than 4 feet 9 inches, or
- only a lap belt is available.

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

## Children ages 8 and up

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. The lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat until age 13.



www.facebook.com/DriveSafeKansas



www.facebook.com/pages/Safe-Kids-Kansas/118303811541683?ref=ts

## Why do children need to ride in a booster seat?

Seat belts are made to fit adults and do not protect children properly. Booster seats work by raising a child up so the lap and shoulder belt are positioned safely. **Booster seats reduce the risk of injury by 59% as compared to using only seat belts.**

high-back booster seat



backless booster seat



## What kinds of booster seats are there?

There are two kinds: high-back and backless. A **high-back booster seat** provides head and neck support and can be used in all vehicles that have lap/shoulder safety belt systems. Some forward-facing car seats convert to become a high-back booster seat. A **backless booster seat** should only be used in vehicles with built-in head rests. All boosters should be used with the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt system, never a lap belt only.

## Where do I purchase a booster seat and how much does one cost?

Booster seats are available at department stores, toy stores and other retail outlets. A backless booster seat costs approximately \$15, and a high-back booster seat ranges from \$20-\$100 depending on the style. If you need assistance, visit [www.kansascarseatcheck.org](http://www.kansascarseatcheck.org) for the location of the nearest child seat inspection station.

## ✓ Safety Tips

- Always follow the instructions provided with your child's car seat and vehicle.
- Children imitate adults. Buckle yourself. Buckle your child.
- Make sure the shoulder belt is snug across the chest and rests flat across the center of the collarbone; the shoulder belt should never be placed behind a child's back or under the arm.
- Teach your child to buckle up and to pull up on the shoulder belt to make the lap belt tight.
- The lap belt should rest low across the pelvic area on the hipbones - the lap belt should never rest on the stomach area.
- The booster seat should follow the child. Make sure carpools, child care providers, family, and friends have access to your child's booster seat.

## \*Keep your child in the backseat until age 13...



### Questions

Contact Safe Kids Kansas at (785) 296-0351 or Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office at (800) 416-2522

[www.kansasboosterseat.org](http://www.kansasboosterseat.org)