

Protect Your Children at Every Age



REAR FACING

All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing child safety seat (CSS) as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their CSS's manufacturer.



FORWARD FACING

All children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limits for their CSS should use a forward-facing CSS with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their CSS's manufacturer.



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 age 13.

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 their knees bent at the edge of the seat without slouching.
- The shoulder belt lies in the middle of their chest and shoulder, not their 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?

Reach out to HealthyOhio@odh.ohio.gov with any questions or follow the QR code below for more information on the Child Passenger Safety Program in Ohio.



Funded in whole or in part by the Ohio Department of Health from the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



BOOST!

Your Child's Odds of Staying Safe



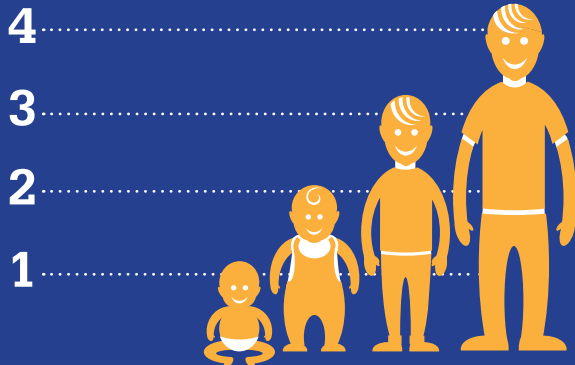
Boost Ohio's Kids

Ohio's child passenger law changed in 2009 to better protect children on Ohio's roadways. The change requires that children under age 8 must be properly restrained in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat (CSS) 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."

- Once a child has reached the maximum weight and height limit for a forward facing CSS, but is too small to properly fit an adult seat belt, they should then transition to a booster seat.
- 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 on the stomach.



Booster Seat Choices

- **Backless Boosters:** May be used as long as a child has head and neck support from the vehicle's head restraint.
- **Highback Boosters:** May be used as long as the 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 Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommend parents use the following four steps to keep their children safe.

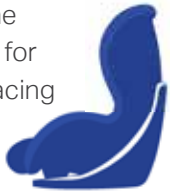
1 Rear-Facing Child Safety Seat PLACED IN THE BACK SEAT

All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing child safety seat (CSS) as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their CSS's manufacturer. Riding rear-facing is safest for infants and toddlers! Ohio law requires that young children be properly restrained in a car seat.



2 Forward-Facing Child Safety Seat PLACED IN THE BACK SEAT

All children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limits for their CSS should use a forward-facing CSS with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their CSS's manufacturer.



3 Booster Seat PLACED IN THE BACK SEAT

Once children reach the upper limit of their forward-facing CSS, Ohio law requires that children ride in a booster seat until they are at least 4'9" tall or age 8. 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 ages 8 and 12 or when they are 4'9" tall).



4 Adult Seat Belt IN THE BACK SEAT UNTIL THEY'RE AT LEAST 13 YEARS OLD

Children who have outgrown their booster seat should ride in the back seat until they're at least age 13. Ohio law requires use of seat belts by all drivers and passengers in a vehicle. Children ages 8–15, who are not secured in a CSS or booster seat, must be secured by the vehicle seat belt, regardless of where they are sitting in the vehicle.