



**iRideSafe™**

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[iridesafe.com](http://iridesafe.com)

# Booster Seat Guide

At iRideSafe™, we know that parents want to do everything they possibly can to keep their kids safe. And most parents are aware that using car seats and booster seats can reduce the risk of injury or death in a car crash. What many parents don't realize, however, is that transitioning children too early to a booster seat or to the seat belt only, can significantly increase their risk of injury or death.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), using a booster seat can reduce the risk of injury in a crash by 45% over a seat belt alone!

Booster seats are designed to raise your child up so the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt fit properly. Your child is ready for a booster seat once he/she has reached the maximum height or weight limit for the forward-facing car seat – this may be older than you think! Remember that with every step forward there is a reduction in the level of protection and safety. So please don't rush your child to the next stage for any reason.

Once you have determined that your child is big enough to transition out of his/her forward-facing car seat, we invite you to use this guide, plus other resources available at [iRideSafe.com](http://iRideSafe.com) to learn more about the proper use and installation of your child's booster seat.

## SAFETY FIRST

Research proves that booster seats save lives! Car crashes are the leading cause of death for children 14 and under, and failure to use proper restraints is a contributing factor in half of these fatalities, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).



## FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MADISON'S BOOSTER SEAT LAW

### GEORGIA LAW

Effective July 1, 2011, All children in Georgia under age 8, whose height is less than 4' 9" or 57", must ride in the backseat of a vehicle, and are required to be in either a car seat or a booster seat suitable for their height and weight.

### VEHICLE EXEMPTIONS



Vehicles that are exempt from this law include taxicabs and public transit.

### OTHER EXEMPTIONS



Children who are under the age of 8 and whose height is over 4'9" or 57". The child must still be restrained by a seat belt.



A parent or guardian must have a written statement from a physician that the child has a physical or medical condition that prevents the child from being restrained as required by law.



In a vehicle where all the lap and shoulder belts are being used to restrain other children, a lap belt can be used to restrain a child under the age of 8 and weighing at least 40 pounds.

Call Us Toll Free at 1-800-LAW-NEED (1800-529-6333)  
Montlick.com In Atlanta call 404-529-6333

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### BOOSTERS: A PROPER FIT

- ✓ Booster seats **MUST** be used with a lap and shoulder belt. **NEVER** use a lap belt only.
- ✓ The shoulder strap should rest on your child's chest between the shoulder and neck.
- ✓ The lap belt should sit low, touching the top of your child's thighs, and **NEVER** across his or her soft abdomen.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** place the seat belt under the arm rest of the booster seat.
- ✓ Do **NOT** allow your child to put the seat belt under his or her arm or behind his or her back.
- ✓ When using a backless booster, your child should have head support from the vehicle's headrest.

### OTHER IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

- Check the expiration date on the booster seat before installing. Never use an expired booster seat, as it may not meet current federal standards and could have recalled parts that are not safe for your child.
- Avoid using a second-hand or used booster seat or one that has been involved in a car crash. An expired or damaged seat could compromise your child's safety.
- Register your booster seat to ensure that you are notified about any recalls. You can register online at [safercar.gov](http://safercar.gov) or by filling out the registration card that came with your booster seat.
- Never hold a child in your lap while riding in a vehicle, or place them in the front seat of a vehicle, as it could put your child's life in serious danger in the event of a crash.
- For proper installation information, always refer to your car seat or booster seat owner's manual and your vehicle owner's manual.

### HIGH-BACK VS. BACKLESS BOOSTER SEAT

Which type of booster you choose for your child depends on your vehicle. A high-back booster is needed if your vehicle has low seat backs or does not have headrests. Backless boosters can be used if your vehicle has high seat backs and headrests.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Your child's safety is important to us! Please make sure they are always buckled up in the appropriate car seat. Below are some additional resources to help keep your family safe on the road.

**Watch Car Seat Installation Videos** at [iRidesafe.com](http://iRidesafe.com). Including easy-to-follow videos with steps to help you install your child's booster seat and ensure that your child is properly restrained while riding in a vehicle.

**Register Your Booster Seat** at [safercar.gov](http://safercar.gov)

**Search for Booster Seat Recalls** at [NHTSA.gov](http://NHTSA.gov)

### NEXT STEPS

Keep your child in a belt-positioning booster seat as long as possible, and please do not transition them out of it until you are certain the vehicle seat belt fits him or her correctly. Remember that with every step forward there is a reduction in the level of protection and safety. So don't rush to the next stage. Don't worry if your child is age 12 before he or she is ready to use the vehicle's seat belt only.

**Children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat of the vehicle whenever possible.  
The back seat is the safest position for children.**

Sources: [nhtsa.gov](http://nhtsa.gov), [safercar.gov](http://safercar.gov), [aap.org](http://aap.org)  
(American Academy of Pediatrics)

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