

# Booster Seats: What You Need to Know



## 5 Quick Facts

- 1) Once your child exceeds the height or weight limits of his car seat, a booster seat is required.
- 2) Booster seats **must** be used with a lap-shoulder belt. **Never** use a lap-belt only.
- 3) Michigan law requires all children under 4'9" tall or 8 years of age to be restrained in a car seat or booster seat.
- 4) Most booster seats are not installed in the vehicle, do not use LATCH and/or Tethers unless the booster seat manual allows it.
- 5) Never allow your child to put the shoulder belt behind his back, or underneath his arm. Serious injury can result in a crash from improper booster seat use.

Macomb County Health Department offers **FREE** car seat inspections.

Call for an appointment (586) 412-3398 or visit us on the web at:

<http://www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth/hpdc/childpassengersafety.htm>

## Types of booster seats

When your child has exceeded the height and/or weight limit of his car seat, it is time to move to a booster seat. There are two types of booster seats on the market, high back boosters and backless boosters.

**High back boosters** generally have a 30 pound lower weight limit and an 80-100 upper weight limit depending on the type of seat. High back boosters have an adjustable shoulder belt routing guide, and the lap belt generally goes under the arm rests. Most high back boosters will need to be on a vehicle seating position that has a high, supportive seat back, or a head rest.



Occasionally, some high back boosters can be used on a seat without the high seat back or head rest, but you must check the booster seat manual prior to using the seat with your child.

**Backless boosters** are simply a much smaller version of the high back boosters. They are used in the same way as a high back booster, but the vehicle seat must have a high seat back or a headrest to support the child's head and neck and cannot be used otherwise. For most backless boosters, children must be at least 40 pounds and 40 inches tall. Check the manual before using the seat with a child smaller than those guidelines.



## Using a booster seat

Booster seats sit on the vehicle seat, and are designed to lift your child up to the proper seat belt position. With your child sitting upright, buckle the seatbelt, place the shoulder belt across the collarbone and the lap belt low, on the hip bones. Never allow your child to place the shoulder belt behind his ear or under his arm. *Never use a lap-belt only with a booster seat.*

