

# IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

## RESTRAINT USE

## AGE / SIZE



Rear-facing in an infant or convertible car seat

Birth to at least 2 years old



Forward-facing car seat with an internal harness

At least 2 years old AND has outgrown the rear-facing car seat by height or weight



Booster seat using the vehicle lap belt and shoulder belt

At least 4 years old AND has outgrown the forward-facing car seat by height or weight



Vehicle seat using the vehicle lap belt and shoulder belt

At least 9 years old or has outgrown the booster seat, AND the child can pass the 5-Step Test

If a child fits in more than one category, place them in the more protective category (*rear-facing being most protective*).

Children under the age of 13 must sit in a back seat, *if possible*.

Every driver who transports a child under the age of 18 years in a motor vehicle, is required to have the child restrained in a car seat or seat belt.

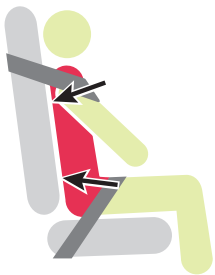
**5-STEP TEST** →



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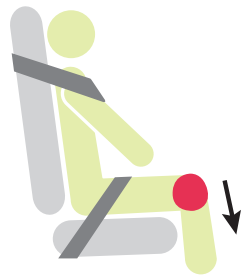
## THE 5-STEP TEST

The 5-Step Test is a way to know when a child can ride without a booster seat. A child can safely ride on the vehicle seat with the lap and shoulder belt when the child can do ALL 5 steps.



1

The child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat



2

Their knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat



3

The lap belt fits snugly across the hips near the top of the thighs, **NOT THE ABDOMEN**



4

The shoulder belt snugly crosses the center of the chest & shoulder, **NOT THE NECK**



5

The child sits correctly, without slouching, for the entire ride

**Changes to the Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Law went into effect August 1, 2024 (state statute 169.685).**

**The new law gives best practice guidance to caregivers on car seats, booster seats and seat belts for safely transporting children.**



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