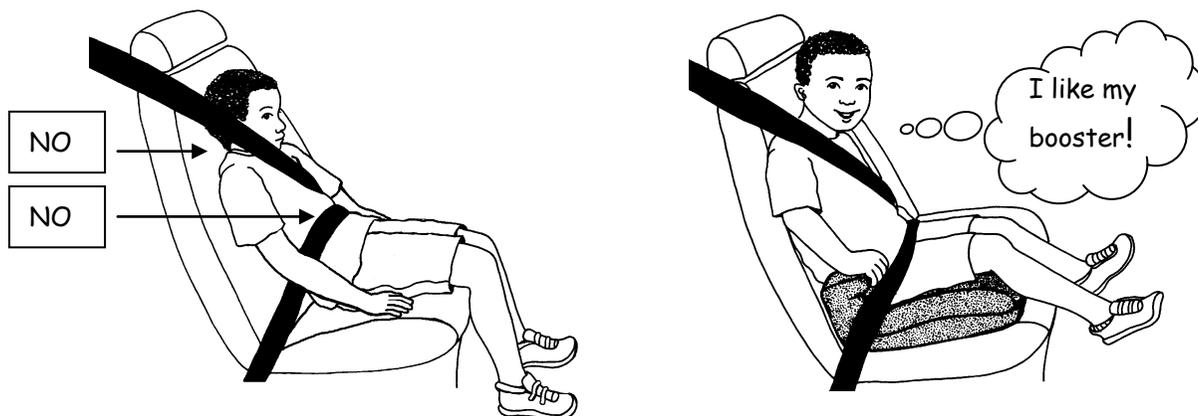


NEW LAW PROTECTS CALIFORNIA KIDS!

Effective January 1, 2012

- **Children under age 8** must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.
- **Children age 8 or older** may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.
- **Everyone in the car** must be properly buckled up. For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$475 and get a point on their driving records.



Most kids need to ride in a booster seat until age 10 to 12.

If your child isn't using a booster, try the simple test below the next time you ride together in the car. You may find that your child is not yet ready to use a safety belt without a booster.

The 5-Step Test

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder belt and the lap belt fit right for the best crash protection. Your child will be more comfortable, too.

For best protection, all children should ride in the back seat. It's twice as safe as the front!

For a list of programs with low-cost car seats, call your local health department at _____

For other information: SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. www.carseat.org 800-745-SAFE (English) 800-747-SANO (Spanish)

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