

Safety Belt Fit Test

Test all children under age 13 to be sure they are big enough to safely wear the adult safety belt without a booster seat:

1. Have your child sit in a back seat with their bottom and back against the vehicle's seat back. Do the child's knees bend at the seat's edge? If yes, go on. If not, the child must stay in a booster seat.
2. Buckle the seat belt. Does the lap belt stay low on the hips? If yes, go on. If it rests on the stomach, the child must stay in a booster seat.
3. Look at the shoulder belt. Does it lay on the collarbone and shoulder? If yes, go on. If it's on the face or neck, the child must remain in a booster seat.
4. Never put the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back. Do not allow children to play with the shoulder portion of a seat belt. Treat it like any cord.
5. Can the child maintain the correct seating position with the shoulder belt on the shoulder and the lap belt low across the hips? If yes, the child has passed the Safety Belt Fit Test. If no, the child should return to a booster seat and re-test in a month.

Require your child to use a safety belt in every vehicle, whether or not you are there to remind him or her.

