

Dear Parent:

One size does not fit all when it comes to buckling up kids! Buckling your child right just isn't as easy as it used to be. With so many different restraints on the market, it's hard to choose the car seat or booster seat that would best protect your child in a crash. Because we are concerned about your child's safety, we have checked off the child restraint best suited for your child's age and weight and height. We hope this will help eliminate confusion about which car or booster seat should be used.

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_ I am: \_\_\_\_\_ months/ years old I weigh: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds

My best protection would be:

- An infant-only child safety seat.** Children weighing less than 20-22 pounds (according to the manufacturer's instructions) are best protected in these types of seats.
- A rear-facing convertible child safety seat.** Children weighing between 5 and 30-35 pounds (according to the manufacturer's instructions) are best protected in these types of seats.

***\*Keep your little ones safe by keeping them rear-facing as long as possible!!\****

- A forward-facing child safety seat with an internal harness used to the seat's maximum harness weight limit.** (Usually 40 pound: some seats allow harness use to higher weights, see manufacturers instructions). Children who have outgrown rear-facing restraints are best protected in these types of seats.
- A belt positioning booster seat used with a lap and shoulder belt; a high-backed booster for a vehicle with low bench seats, a no-backed booster for a vehicle with head restraints.** Children who have reached the weight limit of the harness in their child safety seat are best protected in these types of seats.

- A lap and shoulder belt.** Children who can do all the following are ready for a seat belt:

**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?

***\*Keep children in the back seat until they are 13 years old and weigh at least 100 pounds\****

Please note:

The above are child passenger safety "best practice" recommendations. "Best practice" recommendations are the most current, up-to-date recommendations provided by safety experts to help you best protect your child. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure every child is restrained correctly, in an appropriate child safety seat, on each trip.

## Additional Tips:

- From an early age, explain to young children that they will use a booster seat when they are older.
- When it is time to switch to a booster seat, explain to children how the booster offers them better protection than an adult seat belt.
- Let children help in selecting the seat.
- Make sure the seat fits your child's weight and height.
- Try installing a seat in your vehicle before purchasing it. Make sure it fits the vehicle seat and vehicle seat belts/LATCH system.
- Always consult your vehicle owner's manual before purchasing and installing a child safety seat. Most will offer specific instructions and list any special equipment that might be needed for proper installation of a child safety seat.

**The following activities may help make your child's transition from convertible seat to booster seat easier:**

### "Riding in a Booster, Makes the Seat Belt Fit Me"

(Sung to the tune of "Where is thumbkin?")

Where is Emma? (insert your child's name)

Where is Emma?

Here I am. Here I am.

Riding in a booster

Makes the seat belt fit me

Safe and snug, safe and snug.

I am Emma.

I am Emma.

I'm big now. I'm big now.

'Cause I'm in a booster

And the seat belt fits me

I can see, I can see.

This service was provided by the \_\_\_\_\_.

For more information about your child's safety seat, or to make an appointment to receive/inspect a seat, call \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_.