

Fact Sheet on Booster Seats

- A booster seat is made for older children when they are too big for a car seat but are still not big enough to safely use adult seat belts. It sits on the seat of the vehicle and raises a child up so the car's seat and shoulder belts will fit properly fit.
- As of Jan. 1, 2002, Oregon law requires all children between four and six years old and weighing between 40 and 60 lbs. to ride in a child safety system that elevates the child so that lap/shoulder belts fit correctly.
- Failure to have children properly restrained is a Class D traffic infraction. The fine is \$77 for each infraction.
- Booster seats increase a child's chance of surviving a crash by 36 percent.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the primary cause of death and injury to children. In 2000, 12 children, ages zero to eight, were fatally injured in motor vehicle crashes in Oregon.
 - Eight of the children who were killed were under the age of four.
 - Four of the children who died were not in child safety seats or seat belts.
 - Four children, ages seven to eight, were in seatbelts only, rather than in booster seats.
- Booster seats help position the seat belt over the strongest parts of the child's body where they do the most good.
- A child may stop using a booster seat when all of the following conditions are met:
 - The child is able to sit all the way back against the vehicle seat.
 - The child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat.
 - The shoulder belt crosses the center of the shoulder and chest (NOT touching the throat.)
 - The lap belt fits snugly across the top of the thighs (NOT riding up on the soft tissues of the abdomen.)

*Typically, a child is around eight years old and weighs 80 lbs. before he/she will properly fit into an adult lap and shoulder belt.
- Children under age 12 should always ride in the back seat.

For more information, go to www.cherisheverychild.org.