



The Safest Ride: Backseat until age 13

Did you know that according to Washington State law, kids under the age of 13 are required to ride in the back seat whenever practical to do so? Why does this matter?

- **Everyone is safer in the back seat** – especially kids! Kids under the age of 13 riding in the front seat are 50% more likely to be killed or seriously injured than kids riding in the back seat when involved in a vehicle crash.
- **What's on the inside counts!** It's not about size and weight, it's about bone strength and body structure. Until age 13, kids' bodies aren't strong enough to withstand crash forces in the front seat.
- **It's the law!** Laws help protect people. Violations can result in a \$124 citation. The driver is responsible for all passengers under 16.



The Safest Ride: Booster Seats

School-age children need to use a child restraint system (car seat or booster) until the adult lap/shoulder belt can fit properly. When your child reaches age 8 or 4'9" tall, use this "Seat Belt Readiness Test" to determine if they are ready to ride in an adult seat belt:

- ✓ Can your child sit comfortably against the vehicle's seat back?
- ✓ Can your child's knees bend at the edge of the seat?
- ✓ Does the lap belt fit low across the upper thighs?
- ✓ Does the shoulder belt fit across the center of the shoulder and chest?
- ✓ Can your child stay seated comfortably in this position for the entire ride?

If the answer is "no" to any of these questions, your child should remain in a booster seat.