

Many parents understand how important it is for babies and young children to ride in car seats. But many parents and caregivers don't realize how important it is for children who weigh more than 40 pounds to ride in car **booster** seats!

Booster seats "boost" children up in the car or truck making the seat belt fit the child correctly. Without booster seats, children can be uncomfortable and more important, **unsafe**. In fact, booster seats help children make the change from riding in a car seat to using a regular seat belt.

Booster seats

must be used with a lap and shoulder belt!

Without the shoulder belt, your child will have no upper body protection. Don't let your children put the shoulder belt under their arms or behind their backs. Car booster seats can protect your child from head injuries, spinal cord injuries and keep them from being thrown out of the car.

Booster seats come in two designs:

- High back boosters with harness: The harness system should be used for children who weigh between 20 and 40 pounds. Check instructions for weight limits.



- Belt positioning booster: A child who weighs more than 40 pounds can use a high back booster to position the seat belt correctly.

- Platform boosters: This type of seat can be used if your car's seat back is higher than your child's ear. Use a lap and shoulder belt.



If your car only has lap belts across the back seat, ask your auto dealer about installing shoulder belts.

Children can ride in seatbelts when:

- They weigh more than 80 pounds.
- Their knees bend over the seat when they sit back as far as possible with back straight.
- The shoulder belt fits snugly across the middle of the chest and the lap belt fits low across the upper thighs.

Until then, give your kids a "boost"!

Contact Fire Department personnel for assistance in installing booster seats.

For more information about car booster seats for kids, call the

**Boca Grande Fire Department
(941) 964-2908**



Urban Survival

Life Safety Program



BOOSTER SEATS FOR KIDS

BOCA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT



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