



## One Minute Safety Check

### **Booster Seats**

#### ***✓ What is the purpose of a booster seat?***

- TIP \* A booster seat raises your child so that the seat belt fits correctly and can better protect your child in a crash.
- \* Remember to fasten in the booster when your child is not in it. Even in a sudden stop, an unbelted booster seat could fly around the vehicle injuring another passenger or the driver.



#### ***✓ Is your child ready to use a booster seat?***

- TIP \* Your child must be at least 18 kg (40 lb.) to use a booster seat. Don't be in a hurry to move your child to a booster. It is safer for a child to use a 5 pt. harness as long as possible. Most new models of car seats allow a child to be harnessed up to 30 kg (65 lb.).
- \* If your child is too tall for his or her car seat (the harness comes from below shoulders or top of ears are level with the top of the car seat), but is not yet 18 kg (40 lb.), you need to buy a different seat. Some models of Child/Booster seats have a higher top harness slot so they can fit taller children.

#### ***✓ Do you have the instructions for your child's booster seat?***

- TIP \* Read the instructions that came with your seat. Follow them carefully.

#### ***✓ Is your child sitting in the right place in your vehicle?***

- TIP \* Your vehicle owner's manual has information about air bags and seat belts.
- \* A lap and shoulder belt is required for a booster seat.
- \* Do not install the booster seat in a front seating position that has an active air bag.
- \* Children 12 and under are safer in the back seat.
- \* For side-impact air bags in the back seat, follow the vehicle manufacturer's instructions.

#### ***✓ Does your child have the proper head and neck support?***

- TIP \* To prevent whiplash, make sure the booster seat, vehicle seat, or your vehicle's head rest comes up above your child's ears.
- \* Encourage your child to sit up straight. A child slumped over the side of a booster could be injured in a crash.

#### ***✓ Is the shoulder belt pulled snug?***

- TIP \* The seat belt needs to lie flat.
- \* Only 1 finger should fit between the seat belt and your child's chest.
- \* The shoulder belt should be centred on your child's shoulder and chest.
- \* The shoulder belt should **never** be tucked under a child's arm or put behind a child's back. This could cause severe or fatal injuries in a crash.

#### ***✓ Is the lap belt correct?***

- TIP \* The lap belt should ride snugly across the top of your child's thighs. A lap belt that rides up on the stomach can cause internal injury or spinal damage in a crash.

For more information, go to our website: [www.infantandtoddlersafety.ca](http://www.infantandtoddlersafety.ca)

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