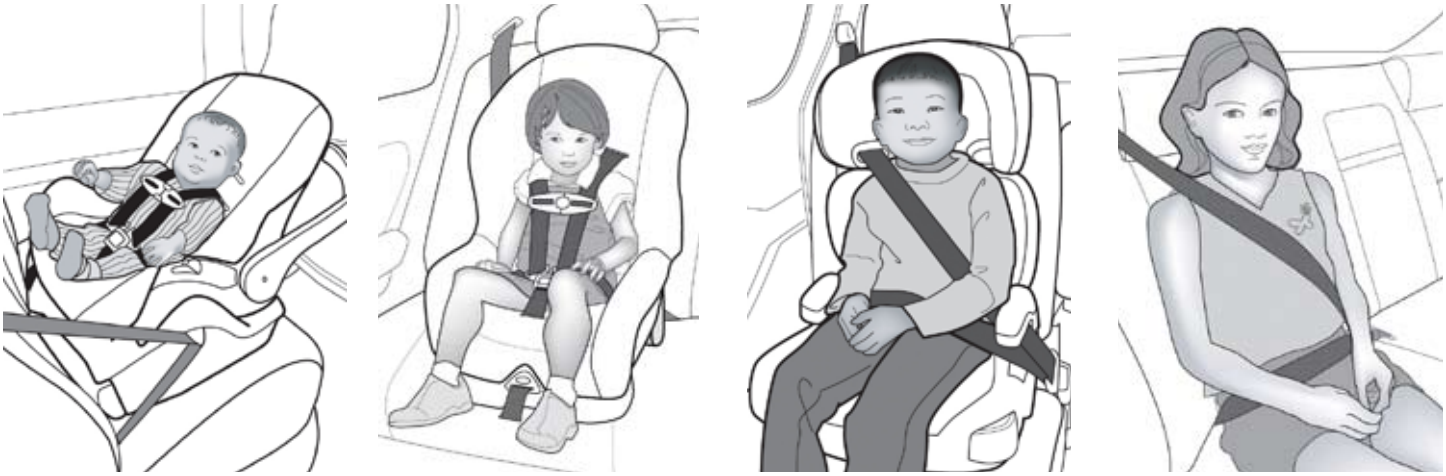
Maryland's Child Passenger Safety Law

(Effective October 1, 2012)



- **Every child** under 8 years old must ride in an appropriate child restraint* unless the child is 4 feet, 9 inches or taller.
- **Every child** from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured in a vehicle seat belt.

* "Child restraint" includes car seats, booster seats, or other federally approved safety devices.

Protect your children as they ride!

Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat.

The back seat is the safest.

Questions?

Call **Maryland Kids In Safety Seats (KISS)**
at 1-800-370-SEAT or (410) 767-6016,
e-mail: *dhmh.kiss@maryland.org*
or visit us online at *www.mdkiss.org*

MARYLAND KISS KIDS IN SAFETY SEATS

Maryland Highway Safety Office MVA

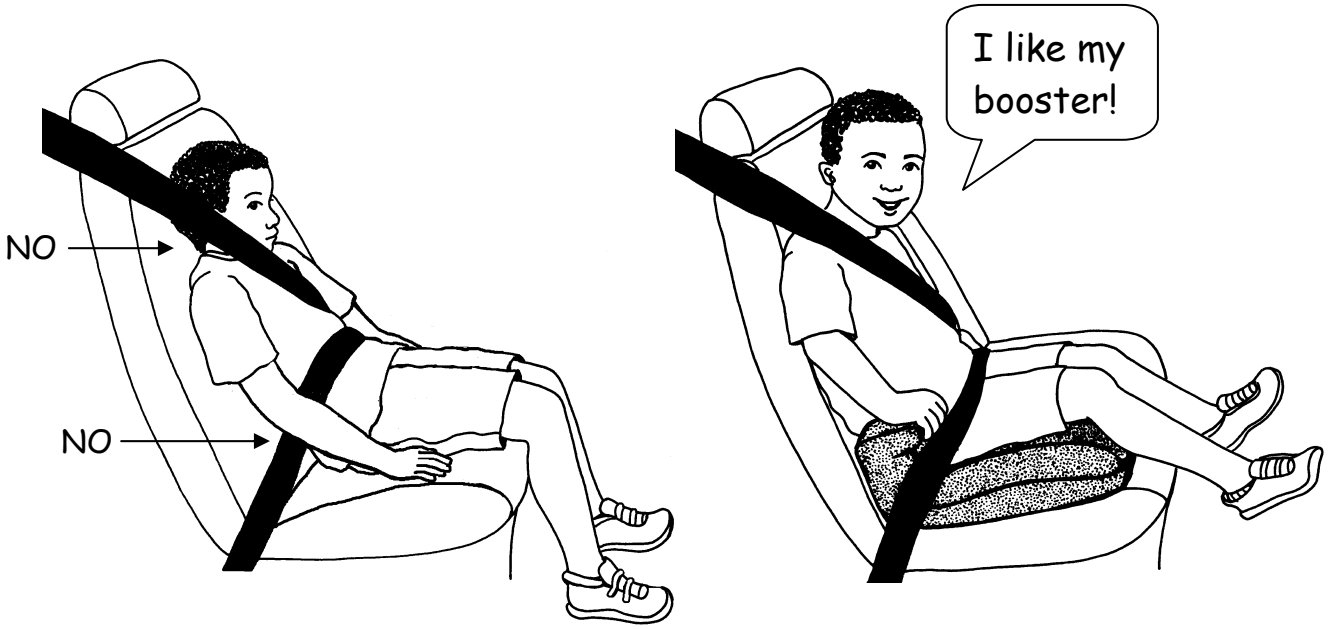
MARYLAND Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Maryland KISS Program
Martin O'Malley,
Governor
Anthony G. Brown,
Lt. Governor
Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.,
Secretary, DHMH

Boosters Are For Big Kids

Most kids need to ride in a booster seat from about age 4 until age 10-12.

If your child isn't using a booster, try the simple test below the next time you ride together in the car. You may find that your child is not yet ready to use a safety belt without a booster.



<u>The 5-Step Test</u>

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?**

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder belt and the lap belt fit right for the best crash protection. Your child will be more comfortable, too!

For best protection, all children should ride in the back seat until they are ready to drive. It's twice as safe as the front seat.

***SafetyBeltSafe* U.S.A.** P.O. Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003 www.carseat.org
310/222-6860, 800/745-SAFE (English) 310/222-6862, 800/747-SANO (Spanish)