



## Booster Seats – protect your child!

### Did You Know?

#### 1. Booster seats save lives.

For 4 – 8 year old children, using a booster seat with a seat belt instead of a seat belt alone reduces a child’s risk of injury by 59%.

#### 2. Booster seats are for kids age 4-8 years old.

Booster seats are recommended until children are at least 8 yrs old **OR** 4 ft 9 inches tall.

#### 3. It’s the law!

Maryland law states that children need to be in a federally approved child safety seat or booster seat if they are:

- younger than 8 years old  
**unless the child is**
- at least 4'9" tall or more than 65 lbs

### Prevention TIPS:

#### Tip 1 Where to get the seat:

Booster seats can be purchased at retail stores starting at \$15. For low-income families,\* seats may be available at a reduced cost through a discount or rental program. For more information, call:

**Johns Hopkins: 410-614-5587**

**Kids In Safety Seats: 1-800-370-SEAT**

\*Proof of income required.

#### Tip 2 How a booster seat works:

Booster seats raise small children up so the adult sized seatbelt better fits their smaller bodies. Never use a booster seat with just a lap seat belt.

#### Tip 3 To make sure the seat fits your child correctly:

Look at the child in the seat. He/she should sit all the way back against the vehicle seat with his/her knees bending over the edge of the vehicle seat. The shoulder belt should cross the chest and rest snugly on the shoulder. The lap belt should rest low across the hips – NEVER across the stomach.

#### Tip 4 ALWAYS place the booster seat in the BACKSEAT.

All children under 13 years of age should ride in the back seat. They are 40% safer in the back seat.

GET THE SEAT AND GET IT CHECKED	
<b>Johns Hopkins Children’s Safety Center</b>	410-614-5587
<b>MD Kids In Safety Seats (KISS)</b>	1-800-370-SEAT www.mdkiss.org
<b>Safe Kids Baltimore: University of Maryland</b>	410-328-7532

Mayor Sheila Dixon  
[www.preventionwednesday.org](http://www.preventionwednesday.org)

## Resources and References

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A Parents Guide to Booster seats:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/ParentGuide2005/index.htm>

Information on the 2 types of booster seats:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/ParentGuide2005/pages/TypesofBooster.htm>

American Academy of Pediatrics Information on Car Seats/ Booster Seats:

<http://www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm>

Maryland Kids In Safety Seats (KISS):

<http://www.mdkiss.org>

Note that Maryland law on booster seats was recently updated. The flier above includes the new law, and is accurate as of June 30, 2008.