

California Law Requires:

- A child under the age of 8 be “properly buckled” in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat.
- A child age 8 or older may use the vehicle seat belt if “properly buckled”. Properly buckled means:
 1. The vehicle lap belt on the child’s lap (not on their stomach), and
 2. The vehicle shoulder belt crossing the center of the child’s chest.

*If they are unable to be properly buckled in this way, they must ride in a **booster seat** so the lap belt is on the child’s lap and the shoulder belt crosses the center of their chest.*
- Everyone in the car must be properly buckled up. *For each child* under 16 who is not properly secured, *the driver (and parent if in the car)* will be fined more than \$475 and one point on their driving record.

Hospitalizations and deaths from car accidents are within the top five leading causes of injury among the 2.6 million children, 16 years of age and younger in Los Angeles County. Riding “improperly buckled” is the number one reason for these injuries. While 96% of parents report that they believe they are using their child seats correctly, survey results have shown misuse rates over 90%.

The **5-Step Test** gives steps needed to make sure your child is “properly buckled” as required under the law. If you have questions or would like a FREE inspection call **1-866-732-8243** or visit

Birth-2 years (Rear Facing)



2-3 years (Rear Facing - Forward Facing)



4-7 years (Forward Facing - Booster)



8-12+ years (Booster - Seat Belt)



NOTE: LATCH System, 65-lbs maximum weight (combined seat & child)



5-Step Test

1. Does your child sit with their bottom back against the vehicle back seat? ___ Yes ___ **No**
2. Do your child’s knees bend comfortably over the edge of the vehicle seat? ___ Yes ___ **No**
3. Does the shoulder belt cross the between the center of the child’s chest? ___ Yes ___ **No**
4. Is the lap belt lying flat on the child’s lap? ___ Yes ___ **No**
5. Can your child stay seated in this position for the entire trip? ___ Yes ___ **No**

If you answered “**No**” to ANY question, your child needs to be seated in a booster seat.

*Keep this 5-Step Test with your car registration so you can test your child as they grow. Remember, if your child rides in different vehicles, each vehicle seat size is different, so your child needs to be tested for each vehicle. Once you and your child learn these steps, it is easy to remember. If you have questions or need your seat inspected, call **1.866-732-8243** or visit www.seatcheck.org*