

Correct vs. Incorrect Restraint of a 6-year-old Child in a Motor Vehicle Crash



Key Safety Message

Children who weigh 40 to 80 pounds should be properly restrained in a belt-positioning booster seat.

Correct Restraint—This simulation (below) shows how a 6-year-old child properly restrained in a belt-positioning booster seat barely moves during a 35 m.p.h. crash.



Incorrect Restraint—The same child, improperly restrained in an adult seat belt with the shoulder belt behind the back*, is thrown forward dramatically in the same crash. The inappropriate fit of the seat belt and lack of upper body restraint puts the child at risk for severe head, spinal, abdominal and brain injury.



** Placing the shoulder belt behind the back is a common and dangerous mistake children make when the shoulder belt doesn't fit properly.*