



My child has turned seven, does that mean he/she can now move out of their booster seat?

The law states that children seven years and over must use an approved child restraint or properly adjusted and securely fastened seat belt while sitting on the vehicle seat. The average seven year old cannot fit an adult seatbelt correctly, in fact, most children cannot wear the adult seatbelt correctly until 10 to 12 years of age.

Vehicle seats and seatbelts are designed for adult bodies so it is highly unlikely that your child will fit an adult seatbelt when he/she reaches their seventh birthday. A booster seat needs to be used until they can.

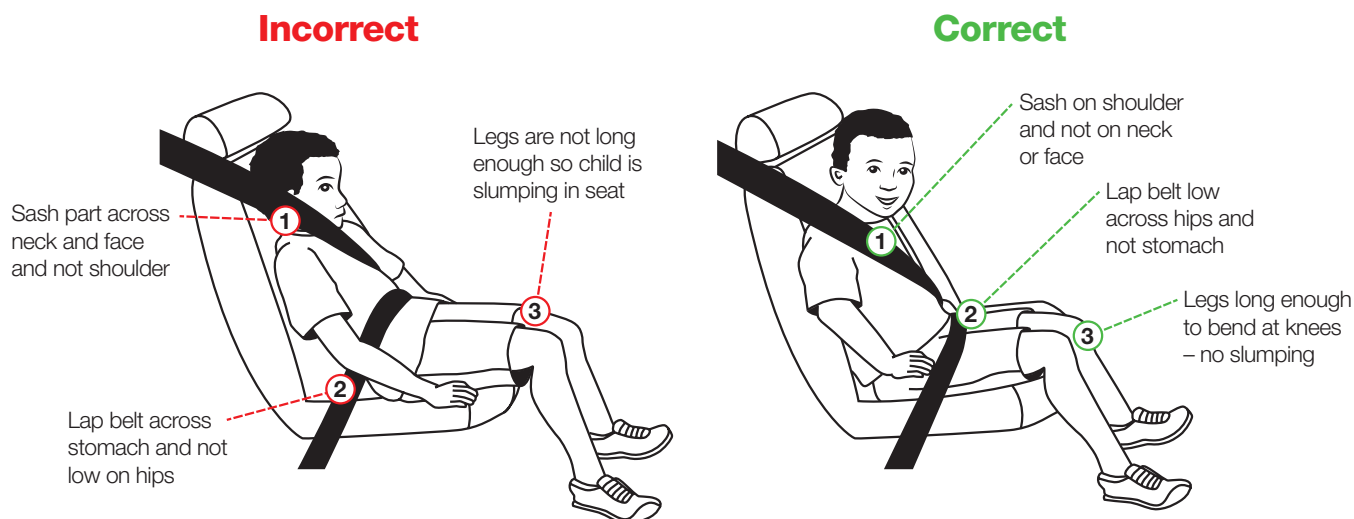
Children that move into an adult seatbelt too early are twice as likely to suffer devastating injuries in a crash, including severe damage to the brain, liver, spleen, stomach and spinal cord.

Seatbelt fit will vary from vehicle to vehicle and even from position to position in the same vehicle.

There are now several models of booster seat on the market that will accommodate children up to the height needed to wear the adult seatbelt correctly.

fact sheet | What happens after 7 years of age?

If your child is not using a booster, try this simple three point test. You may find that your child is not yet ready to use an adult seatbelt correctly without the booster.



3 Point Test

- 1. Does the sash part of the seatbelt sit on the middle of the shoulder and not touch the neck or face?**
- 2. Does the lap part of the seatbelt sit low down on the hips and not on the abdomen?**
- 3. When you sit the child on the seat with their bottom all the way back, are their thighs long enough for their knees to bend allowing the legs to hang over the front of the seat?**

If you answered “no” to any of these questions, your child needs to be in a booster seat to make both the sash and the lap part of the seatbelt fit right to ensure maximum crash protection.

For more information on child restraints contact RAA's Safety Centre on **8202 4592** or e-mail **childrestraints@raa.com.au**