

Year 3 Riding in Cars

Using a child car seat or booster seat

Children must normally use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.

Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall must wear a seat belt.

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

Height-based seats

Height-based seats are known as 'i-Size' seats. They must be rear-facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing child car seat when they're over 15 months old.

Only EU-approved height-based child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle and 'R129'.

What is the law on booster seats?

So, when can you use a booster seat to transport your child? Here are the current laws you need to know:

- All children must travel in a car seat (including booster seats) until they are either 12 years old or 135cm (150cm in Republic of Ireland) in height, whichever comes first.
- Backless booster seats: Any new backless booster seats can only be used by children who weigh 22kg or more. If they weigh less than this, they'll need to either use a car seat or a high-back booster seat (see below).
- High-back booster seats: On the other hand, booster seats with backs can be used by children weighing between 15-36kg. Again, before they reach this weight, they'll need to use a car seat.

