



for Parents

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A PROGRAM OF CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

When your kids outgrow forward facing child safety seats...

Boost 'em before you buckle 'em



Parents often believe that once their children outgrow their forward facing child safety seat – often when a child weighs 40 pounds – that an adult seat belt is good enough.

But a child who cannot sit with his or her back straight against the vehicle seat back cushion with knees bent over a vehicle seat edge – without slouching – must use a booster seat.

Adult seat belts can be dangerous when used alone if children are too small. The shoulder belt does not fit properly, and the lap belt rides up onto their soft bellies. In a crash, these problems can cause serious or even fatal injuries.

Yet many child passenger safety laws ignore children of this age and size, giving parents a false sense of security.

All children between about 40 to 80 pounds and less than 4'9" tall – usually until about age 12 – should be in a booster seat. A booster seat positions the adult-designed seat belt correctly and safely, and offers children greater comfort and visibility.

So when your kids outgrow forward facing child safety seats, boost 'em before you buckle 'em.



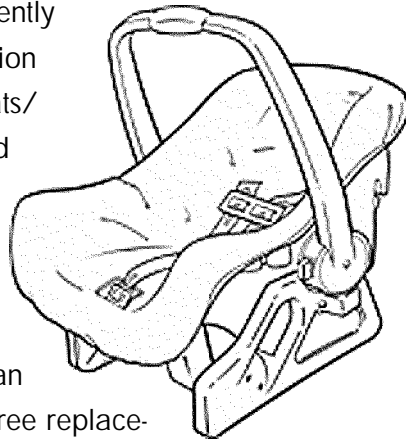
PHOTO: NATIONAL SAFE KIDS COALITION

A child who cannot sit with his/her back straight against the vehicle seat back cushion with knees bent over a vehicle seat edge – without slouching – should use a booster seat, as pictured above.

Century Car Seat/Carrier

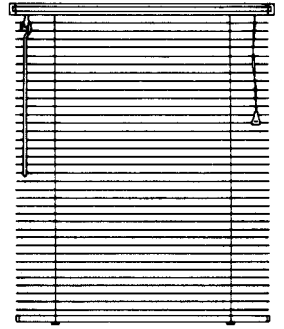
Century Products recently recalled about 4 million rear-facing infant seats/carriers manufactured from January 1991 through July 1997.

When the seat is used as an infant carrier, the handle can break. To receive a free replacement handle, have the seat/carrier with you and call Century toll free at 800-865-1419, or visit Century's Web site at www.centuryproducts.com.



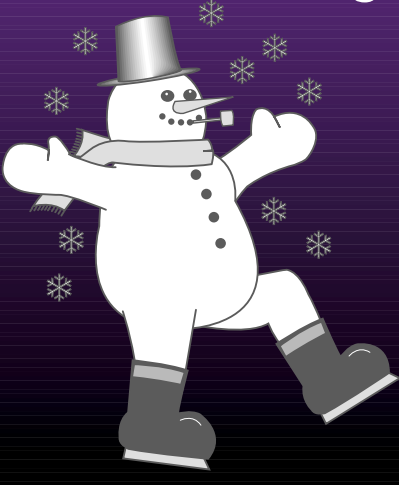
Horizontal Window Blinds

Window blinds sold since 1995 no longer have pull cords ending in loops. But the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has found that children can also become entangled in the inner cords used to raise the slats of the blinds. Consumers can repair these blinds by calling the Window Covering Safety Council toll free at 800-506-4636. For other recall information visit the CPSC Web site at www.cpsc.gov.



Never place a crib within reach of a window blind. Keep blind cords and chains permanently out of children's reach. Never knot or tie the cords together, as this creates a new loop in which a child could become entangled.

Safe Skating



In 1998, more than 15,500 children ages 5 to 14 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries related to ice skating.

But with extra care, children as young as age 4 – as long as they're steady walkers – can enjoy the sport.

Keep the following in mind to assure the safest of winter wonderlands:

- Check for signs posted by local police or recreation departments that say ice is safe for skating.
- Educate children to:
 - Never go out on ice that an adult has not approved.
 - Throw away chewing gum or candy before skating.
 - Skate in the same direction as the crowd.
 - Avoid darting across the ice.
 - Never skate alone.
- If a child falls through the ice, he should stretch his arms over the ice and kick as if swimming, in an attempt to crawl back onto solid ice. ⁿ

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