Your child’s age, weight, height and physical development are all important factors in determining the appropriate car seat or booster seat. No matter the age, professionals recommend your child stay in a car seat or booster seat until they can pass this **Five-Step Test**: 

1. **Does the child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?**
2. **Do the knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?**
3. **Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?**
4. **Does the lap belt lay flat across the upper thighs?**
5. **Does the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?**

If you answer “no” to any of these questions, your child should still be in a booster seat.
Five-Step Seat Belt Checklist

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
2. Do the knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered “no” to any of these questions, your child should still be in a booster seat.

PRESCRIPTION FOR SAFETY

Child’s Name: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Age: __________________________ Height: __________________________ Weight: __________________________

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Rear-Facing Car Seat**
  - Newborn to age 3
  - Keep rear-facing as long as possible
  - Always place in back seat

- **Forward-Facing Car Seat**
  - Age 2 to 5
  - Back seat whenever possible
  - Use to seat’s upper weight and height limits

- **High Back or Backless Booster Seat**
  - Age 4 to 12 (or until seat belt fits properly)
  - Back seat whenever possible
  - Always use lap and shoulder belt

- **Seat Belt**
  - Older than age 8 (for some, not until age 12)
  - Only when seat belt fits properly – usually over 57” tall (4’ 9”)
  - Age 13 and older may ride in front seat

All restraints should be installed and fitted according to the manufacturer’s instructions and your vehicle owner’s manual. For more info, visit CarSeatsColorado.com.