An adult seat belt may not protect a child properly until they’re 148 cm tall. So be on the safe side and keep primary school-age kids in a booster seat until they are 148 cm tall.

**CRASH FORCES: WITH BOOSTER SEAT**

- Raises child higher than the car seat
- Safety belt fits properly across shoulder and breast bone
- Lap belt correctly positioned across top of legs

**CRASH FORCES: WITHOUT BOOSTER SEAT**

Crash test simulation from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (Video: http://youtu.be/AccYpfcEIrS)

**HALF OF ALL NEW ZEALAND CHILDREN**

- All 5 year olds require a booster seat
- 90% of 6 to 8 year olds require a booster seat
- 50% of 9 and 10 year olds require a booster seat
- 10% of 11 and 12 year olds require a booster seat

Remember, it’s about **height** not age: children must use an appropriate child restraint until they are **148 cm** tall.

**THE INJURIES THAT CAN BE CAUSED BY USING AN ADULT SEATBELT TOO SOON**

- Severe head injuries
- Spinal fractures
- Paraplegia
- Bowel transaction, severe liver and spleen damage

**10% of 9 and 10 year olds require a booster seat**

**50% of 9 and 10 year olds require a booster seat**

**90% of 6 to 8 year olds require a booster seat**

**All 5 year olds require a booster seat**
THE NUMBERS: Child motor vehicle passenger injuries in New Zealand

**2nd LEADING CAUSE**
of unintentional injury-related death for children in NZ

- **18 CHILDREN DIE** in vehicle crashes every year; half of them are tamariki Māori.
- **3 CHILDREN** are hospitalised every week as a result of vehicle crashes.

**HOSPITALISATION BY ETHNICITY AND FIVE YEAR AGE GROUP**

- **Asian**
  - 0-4 years: 41%, 0-4 years: 14%
  - 5-9 years: 45%, 5-9 years: 28%

- **European**
  - 0-4 years: 47%, 0-4 years: 25%
  - 5-9 years: 28%, 5-9 years: 26%

- **Māori**
  - 0-4 years: 39%, 0-4 years: 35%
  - 5-9 years: 26%, 5-9 years: 26%

- **Pacific Island**
  - 0-4 years: 35%, 0-4 years: 30%
  - 5-9 years: 35%, 5-9 years: 35%

**New NZ Law, from 1 November 2013:**
Children must use an appropriate child restraint until their 7th birthday.

For more information about child passenger safety, visit [www.safekids.org.nz](http://www.safekids.org.nz)