Arizona Boost ‘em

- According to the CDC, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 5 through 8 years. Many of these children are not properly restrained.

- For children 5 through 8 years old, belt-positioning booster seats reduce injury risk by 59% compared to seat belts alone; however, most children in this age group are currently (and very often incorrectly) restrained by seat belts designed for adults.

- When children are allowed to ride in seat belts, they can suffer serious internal injuries, slip out of the belt, or be ejected from the vehicle during a crash.

- It is recommended that children who are between 40 and 80 pounds and up to 4’9” tall should use a belt-positioning booster seat in the back seat of the car.

- Booster seats allow children a comfortable ride while ensuring that the adult seat belt fits appropriately across the child’s shoulder and thighs.

AZ Injury Facts for 5-8 year old occupants, 2010
- 5 children died in car crashes in 2010.
  - 100% of these children were not properly restrained in seat belts or booster seats.
  - 61 children were hospitalized due to injuries from car crashes
  - 684 children were treated in emergency rooms for injuries from car crashes.

Booster Seats Protect Children
4 Steps for Kids:
1. Use rear-facing infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least one year of age and at least 20 pounds*
2. Use forward facing toddler seats in the back seat from age one and 20 pounds to about age four and 40 pounds.
3. Use booster seats in the back seat from the age four to at least age eight—unless the child is 4’9” or taller.
4. Use seat belts in the back seat at age eight or older and taller than 4’9”.

Seatbelts are not meant to be shared; all passengers must have their own car safety seat or seatbelt.

All children under 13 should ride in the back seat!

Between 2004 and 2010, the rate of non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations among children under 5 years decreased by 32%. Similar events among 5-9 year old children only decreased by 6%.

Though the rate of crash-related injuries has been decreasing since 2004, children between 5 and 9 years old are still at the greatest risk for injuries from seatbelts, and have a higher percentage of inpatient hospitalizations than children younger than 5 years. Use a booster seat!