

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you receive duplicate mailings,  
please call 316.283.1950, ext. 323.  
Thank you for your help!

## A Home for six months

Eric, a charming seventeen year old with a great smile and a contagious laugh, is looking for a Wichita or Sedgwick County family to give him a home for six months!

Eric does well with a structured daily routine, is eager to complete tasks, thrives on positive reinforcement and when someone listens to him when he is angry. He is fond of dogs, enjoys biking, swimming and has even participated in the Special Olympics!

Eric would love to be a member of a young two-parent family with youths around his age and pets.

The foster family that can give him a home for six months will receive in-home support services through MRDD and Mental Health Services and would benefit from a good partnership with our residential facility.

If you are able and interested in giving Eric a home for six months, please call Youthville at 800.593.1950, ext. 194.



## QM connection

Dear Q,  
Are there new agency policies or procedures that as a resource parent I might be interested in or need to know?  
Sincerely, Mrs. Loving

Dear Mrs. Loving,  
Youthville has established a new standard and process to help ensure that all children entering into custody have adequate clothing. All children entering into custody should be provided with a minimum of seven sets of clothing (including undergarments and a pair of shoes) either by birth parents or the agency. Resource parents/placement providers are expected to purchase clothing for the child if he or she does not have ample clothing or if clothing becomes worn out or out grown on an ongoing basis. Additionally, as children move from placement to placement they should continue to maintain the same level of clothing. All resource parents should complete a clothing inventory at the beginning and end of all placements. If you have a question about the clothing inventory or this process, please consult your foster care worker for details.

Shannon Canton  
Quality Management Coordinator

# Families by Choice

A resource parent newsletter

July 2008

## Vacations that Bond

For Carol Stringer, taking care of children has been a lifelong passion. Carol and her husband had five children of their own and she was licensed to operate a day care out of her home for thirty years in Colorado.

When Carol moved to Concordia, Kansas, she knew she wanted to continue along a path of helping kids and became a resource parent for Youthville.

Her experience as a day care provider along with her experiences with her own family, more than prepared her for bringing five children in her home to love, nurture and care for. During the day she has the opportunity to bond with her three young foster children, but she wanted to make sure and establish that special relationship with her 11 and 14 year-old foster children. So Carol decided to do something memorable she would do with her family... take a vacation.

While parents normally take the lead in planning what the family does, Carol felt that this would be a great opportunity to allow the two girls to plan their trip. Carol selected a general location, one she was very familiar with but one that the girls had never been to before, Colorado. The family knew they could save \$1,000 for trip and with those two concrete items, Carol brought in the girls to do the rest of the planning.

The girls did an abundance of research on the internet and wrote letters requesting information from the area convention & visitors bureaus to begin the process of selecting their itinerary.

With their budget in mind, the girls mapped out a week-long vacation in Colorado that included camping in national parks and staying with a close

family friend in Denver. Carol was pleasantly surprised by the amount of pride and ownership that the girls took in planning this, even tickled at how frugal they could be knowing they could not borrow or charge anymore money than what they had. But if you think they had a limited vacation, think again.

The family spent two days venturing though the



mountains and forests, documenting almost every creature that was listed in a booklet they had about the wildlife in the national park. They photographed and marked their findings in a journal all along the way. The girls had never been on a vacation like this before and were ecstatic to see their hard work in planning come to fruition.

After several days with Mother Nature, the trio traveled to the big city to have even more fun. They had a unique opportunity to stay with a family friend that lived in a large penthouse in the downtown area, overlooking Colorado's other majestic skyline.

Although it was easy to get caught up in the grandeur



## FBC Spotlight Story of Carol Stringer

of their temporary living quarters, the girls never strayed from their plan or their budget.

Every day they visited something that either had a free day or coupons from their visitor guides or off the internet. They visited the 16th Street Mall, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Six Flags and more.



The girls also planned what they ate. They would fix their own sandwiches to save money on lunch and find a reasonable place to dine in the evening. However, on one evening they splurged on a "fancier" evening at a dinner theater to watch *The Sound of Music*.

The entire vacation was one that helped build a strong bond between the girls and Carol. It also helped the girls feel empowered, taught them valuable, real-world lessons in personal finances and introduced them to parts of the US they never knew.

And even though Carol and the girls are all planning another fantastic trip, this time to the Bahamas, Carol likes to take the entire clan on special weekend trips together. She especially likes to take advantage of Youthlink events and Family Enrichment Weekends that Families Together, Inc. coordinates. In Carol's eyes, these trips give the kids experiences and a sense of family that they'll always take with them in life.

Foster Care Leaders

Sandra Gasca  
Chief Program Officer

Luci Monares  
Director of Licensing

Denise Hunter-Mitchell  
Director of Foster Care  
Wichita & South Central

Patrice Claassen  
Director of Foster Care  
Greater Kansas Area

We would like to thank the following resource homes for choosing us as their child placement agency:

- Wichita
- Charles & Claudinita Cox
- Robert & Justine King
- Holly Donaldson & Nancy Loescher
- Tim & Karisa Huntley
- Kirk & Rochelle Moore
- Milton & Veva Sandrick

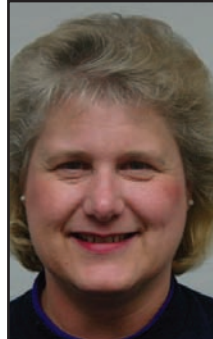
- Northeast
- Rene Appelhans
- Lawrence & Cynthia Gessner

- Northwest
- Jacob Laveau & Jessie Martin
- Lori Staab
- Wesley & Marie Stramel
- David & Cheri Weber

- Southcentral
- Robert & Becky Lathrop

# Director's Letter

Patrice Claassen, Director of Foster Care for Greater Kansas



This has been an exciting and busy year for Youthville's Foster Care Department and as our fiscal year closes, it is time to reflect on the collective accomplishments our department has made in recruitment and foster care services, none of which could have been made without your involvement and input. Our foster care department sets goals at the beginning of each fiscal year and measures achievements throughout the year. Here are several accomplishments that we are very pleased to share:

- Our foster care census has grown by 16%
- An average of 19 new beds per month have been licensed

- 46% of newly licensed beds are designated for children 12 and older
- 19% of newly licensed homes include a resource parent of color
- 38% of all placements are specialized or treatment level of care
- 97% of placements in Youthville resource homes remain stable (monthly average)
- 98% of monthly reports are completed and sent to the child's contracting agency within the appropriate timeframe

Other highlights include:

- The addition of Denise Hunter-Mitchell to oversee the Wichita & South Central areas
- The distribution of 373 gas cards to resource homes
- The distribution of Capacity Funds totaling \$300 to each licensed resource home
- The remodeling of the Hutchinson office and the opening of the Colby office
- The development of the secured website for Youthville's resource parents
- The new Kansas Department of Health & Environment foster parent regulations
- The continued growth of the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care program in Sedgwick county, which has successfully graduated seven youth
- The implementation of the Residential Discharge Specialty Home concept for youth currently in residential treatment facilities.

Of course, the ultimate accomplishment is provided by you on a daily basis. I'm reminded of this as I've participated in the Foster Parent Appreciation events held throughout Kansas in May and June. I am continually humbled at the care each and every one of you provide to the children of Kansas. The impact of the time you share with a child, be it moments or months, is unmeasurable. It is priceless. It is forever. Thank you for caring for the children.

Sincerely,  
*Patrice Claassen*

Patrice Claassen, LMSW  
Director of Foster Care | Greater Kansas Area

## Wanted ...a farm family

Youthville is searching for a family to provide foster care services on a beautiful farm homestead in Southwest Kansas. Requirements for the role include adaptability, flexibility and structure. You must be able to help with household farm upkeep and attend 10-week foster parenting classes. We will train! Rent for the farm and home is included along with foster care reimbursement.

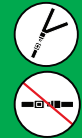
Call Kelsey Carver-Rosales at 620.271.7458 or Jerome & Mary Berning at 620.872.5042 for more information.

# Buckle Up

...continued

Installation tips for booster seats

Booster seats must be used with a lap and shoulder belt, not just a lap belt. Make sure...



- The lap belt lies low and snug across your child's upper thighs.
- The shoulder belt crosses the middle of your child's chest and shoulder.

Booster Seat Fact:

- A belt-positioning booster seat raises the child up so that the seat belt, which is designed for an adult, fits the child's body. Since children in booster seats use the adult seat belt, no installation of the seat is required.

Older children seat belts

Seat belts are made for adults. Your child should stay in a booster seat until adult seat belts fit correctly (usually when the child reaches about 4' 9" in height and is between 8 and 12 years of age). This means...

- The shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not the neck or throat.
- The lap belt is low and snug across the upper thighs, not the belly.
- Your child is tall enough to sit against the seat back with her knees bent without slouching and can stay in this position comfortably the entire time.

Additional points to keep in mind:

- Make sure your child does not tuck the shoulder belt under her arm or behind her back. This leaves the upper body unprotected, putting a child at risk of severe injury.
- Never let anyone "share" seat belts.

Airbags

- Children ages 12 and under should ride buckled up in a back seat.
- Never put an infant in front of an air bag, it can cause serious injuries.
- For air bags to work effectively, everyone must be properly secured by a safety belt.

So whether you are just running a quick errand a few blocks away or venturing across the state, be sure to keep everyone, including teenagers and adults, BUCKLED UP!

# Questionnaire

## Buckle Up

After reading the training article, a resource home may respond to the questions below and return the form for half-hour training credit. Each parent wishing to receive credit must complete their own separate form. Please be sure to print your name and sign at the bottom.

1. True or False In Kansas children age 6 and under 80 lbs must ride in a booster seat.
2. Which of these is a type of car safety seat?
  - A. Convertible
  - B. Booster
  - C. T-shield
  - D. Infant only
  - E. All the above
3. What is the minimum age and weight a child should reach before placing them in a forward facing position seat ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. List 2 types of car seats that can be used for a toddler or preschooler:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Seat belts are made for \_\_\_\_\_.
6. True or False It is okay for your older child to have the shoulder belt tucked under his arm or behind his back.
7. True or False Children 10 and older can ride in the front seat if there is an airbag.
8. What did you find helpful in this article?
9. How will you use this information in your home?
10. What topics would you like to see future newsletter articles cover?

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ To receive credit, please return your completed form to:

Youthville  
Attn: Jennifer Meyer  
PO Box 210  
Newton, KS 67114

# July Training Dates

Check the training calendar on the foster care Web site for up-to-date info at [www.youthville.org](http://www.youthville.org).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8 Cultural Diversity in the Resource Home Rose Alderson 6:30 - 8:30pm (Concordia) Love & Logic Pt 1 of 3 Shannon Reed 6:30 - 8:30pm (Salina) Emotion Coaching Pt 1 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30 - 8:30pm (Hutchinson)	9	10 TBA 6:30-8:30pm (Liberal)	11	12
13	14 TBA 7:00-9:00pm (Colby)	15 Emotion Coaching Pt 2 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30-8:30pm (Hutchinson)  Mediation Mikki Armstrong 6:30 - 8:30pm (Hays)	16 Power of Praise Kathy Neufeld 12:00pm (Wichita) <i>*This will be a support mtg for homes taking specialized and treatment level children</i>	17 TBA 7:00-9:00pm (Dodge City)	18	19 Love & Logic Shannon Reed 9:00am-5:00pm (Pratt)
20	21 Gang Prevention David Gilkey 6:30-8:00pm (Wichita)	22 Emotion Coaching Pt 3 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30-8:30pm (Hutchinson)	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Emotion Coaching Pt 4 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30-8:30pm (Hutchinson)	30	31		

# August Training Dates

Check the training calendar on the foster care Web site for up-to-date info at [www.youthville.org](http://www.youthville.org).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Emotion Coaching Pt 1 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30-8:30pm (Hutchinson)	6 Surviving Allegations Rose Alderson 1:00-3:00pm (Great Bend)	7	8	9
10	11 Listening Tour Youthville Directors 7:00-9:00pm (Colby)	12 Love & Logic Pt 1 of 3 Jennifer Meyer 6:30 - 8:30pm (Garden City) Love & Logic Pt 2 of 3 Shannon Reed 6:30 - 8:30pm (Salina) Emotion Coaching Pt 2 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30 - 8:30pm (Hutchinson)	13	14 Love & Logic Pt 1 of 3 Shannon Reed 6:30-8:30pm (Liberal)	15	16
17	18 Bullies & Bullying Rose Alderson 6:30-8:00pm (Wichita)	19 Emotion Coaching Pt 3 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30-8:30pm (Hutchinson)	20 Self Care Misty Harding 12:00pm (Wichita) <i>*This will be a support mtg for homes taking specialized and treatment level children</i>	21 Grief Process Brenda Harvey-Smith 6:30-8:00pm (Wellington) Love & Logic Pt 1 of 3 Shannon Reed 6:30-8:30pm (Dodge City)	22	23 Conscious Parenting 9:00am-4:00pm (Salina)
24	25	26 Emotion Coaching Pt 4 of 4 Meghann Sterling & Beth Blubaugh 6:30-8:30pm (Hutchinson)	27	28	29	30

# Area updates

## South Central Update

I would like to start off by saying thank you to all the families who were able to participate in the Foster Parent Appreciation Event. It was such a great day. The weather was good, the food was great and the gas cards made everyone's day. It was so nice to see families having a good time at the zoo. Everywhere I went I saw smiles on the faces of the kids.

Secondly, we are trying something different in respect to resource parent training. We are having an 8 hour training on a Saturday in place of the normal monthly trainings. At this point, the trainings are full and we expect another great turn out.

Lastly, I would like to thank staff and families for being patient with all the construction that is going on in the Hutch office. We have had to make a few accommodations. The construction will be completed soon and the Hutch office will have a new look.

Tammy Gream, LMSW | Foster Care Supervisor South Central

## North East Update

### Wichita/Wellington Update

A Resource Parent Story

"This will probably be her last placement", said foster care worker, Lea Aunins, about foster parent, Carrissa Freeman.

Freeman has been a foster parent with Youthville for seven years, and the word "family" is central to her personal mission. "She has two daughters who have been just as involved in fostering as Freeman," Aunins said.

Currently, they have two young girls in their care and Freeman is mentoring their birth mother by including her with the family when they go out to eat or to church. She comes to the home and participates in the daily routine so she can demonstrate positive parenting techniques.

"She is very loving, non-judgmental and motivating," Aunin said, "and she uses her personal experiences to convey her message. She's amazing."

Previously, Carrissa worked with a child for four years until she was adopted by another family. She also encouraged the family to adopt the child's sibling and then connected the them with a third sibling and a grandmother.

Stacey Winter  
Foster Care Supervisor

### MTFC Program Update

Kasha Wilson is an awe-inspiring resource parent. She has been fostering for 7 years and has had four high needs placements... two of which were Treatment Level and she has had two successful Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) graduates. Kasha has been providing MTFC services since 03/12/07. She is supportive of birth families and of program staff. Kasha is a terrific team player. She is calm in the face of crisis, strong in her conviction, supportive in the presence of need, and an all around wonderful person in the lives of these kids. Thanks Kasha!!!

Misty A. Harding, LCMFT

The Northeast Kansas foster parent appreciation event on June the 8th in Lawrence Kansas was a huge success! We had 100 adult and children attend the event at the Dunlap family farm, the perfect setting for such a wonderful event. There was plenty of room for all of the large families to run around on this beautiful sunny day. We started the event with a professional photographer taking family photos of all of our foster families. We followed this up with a barbeque/potluck... *we have some very good cooks in our group of families.* Everyone had fun joining in on various activities such as an egg toss, giant inflatable obstacle course and a fishing derby in the two large ponds. The kids were catching bass and the largest blue gills I have ever seen. Target gift cards were given for the most fish caught and for the largest fish.

At the NE Area Youthville foster parent appreciation event, a special award was presented, the first annual NE Youthville Excellence of Service Award. This year's recipients are Debbie and Dean Dunlap. They were selected because they embody an attitude of service, purpose and passion in their life mission as advocates for children.

They never accept that a problem is too big to overcome, as is evident in their commitment to the cause of fostering and adoption. Debbie and Dean have created an atmosphere of love and acceptance for children in their wonderful home. A healing place for the wounded in spirit and an idyllic environment to celebrate family. They inspire and mentor many families and impact life's beyond what they will every know.

They were presented with a living tribute in the form of gift certificate to a local nursery, to purchase a tree that will be planted at their Lawrence property.

## North West Update

The NWKS foster care team is busy planning our appreciation event on June 22 at the Hays Aquatic Park. In addition to planning this event, our area is working with families on getting KDHE compliant with the new regulations. I'm excited to say that our area received a grant from Wal-Mart to purchase needed items for resource parents to be in KDHE compliance. Thanks to the NWKS staff for pursuing this grant!

I would also like to highlight one of our resource homes in our area. Damon and Shannon Belshe have been a Youthville resource home since 2003. In the month of May they had two TFC level youth graduate from High School. As all resource homes that take teenagers know, this time in the child's life can be difficult and often graduation isn't achieved. I'm very proud to share when these successes can and do occur. Congratulations on this accomplishment we appreciate your commitment to youth!

Amy M. Tuttle, LBSW

## North Central Update

Statistics:

Between 18 resource homes in the area, there is 45 years of experience. Also, within the last 5 years, 172 foster youth have been placed in these homes.

Thank you North Central!

Mary Reed, LBSW. MSW

# Buckle Up

Information obtained from: [www.kansasboosterseat.org](http://www.kansasboosterseat.org) | [www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm)  
[www.ksdot.org/burTrafficSaf/default.asp](http://www.ksdot.org/burTrafficSaf/default.asp) | [www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/template](http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/template)

It's summer time! The children are out of school and there are just as many activities in the summer to "taxi" the children to as there are during the school year. This training article was chosen to remind/inform you of Kansas law to help keep you and the children safe as you drive to ball games, swimming lessons and vacations. Enjoy your time together this summer and BUCKLE UP!

Did you know that in Kansas, the state law requires all children ages 4 through 7 in a booster seat, unless the child weighs more than 80 pounds or is taller than 4 feet 9 inches and buckled? If you fail to meet this law, you can be ticketed \$60 plus court fees. Granted that may not be a large amount of money, but consider this fact.... motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 4 through 7. In addition, booster seats, used properly with safety belts, have been proven more effective than safety belts alone at reducing the risk of injury to children involved in a crash.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in June 2003 concluded that children ages 4 through 7 using booster seats were 59 percent less likely to be injured in a crash than children who were restrained only by an adult safety belt.

## Kansas State Law

The Kansas child passenger safety law requires that children be secured in an appropriate child passenger safety restraint, using the following guidelines:

- Children under age 1 and 20 lbs. must ride in a rear-facing child seat.
- Children ages 1 (who are over 20 lbs), 2 and 3 must be properly restrained in a forward-facing child seat.
- Children ages 4, 5, 6 and 7 must ride in a booster seat unless the child weighs more than 80 pounds or the child is taller than 4 feet 9 inches.
- Children ages 8 through 13 must be protected by a vehicle safety belt.

## Types of car safety seats at a glance

Age	Type of Seat	General Guidelines
Infant	Infant-only & rear-facing convertible	All infants should ride rear-facing until they are 1 year of age and weigh at least 20 pounds.
Toddlers Preschoolers	Convertible, combination & forward-facing	Children 1 year of age and at least 20 pounds can ride forward-facing. It is best to ride rear-facing as long as possible.
School-aged children	Booster	Children who have outgrown their forward-facing seats can ride in a booster seat. They should remain in one until the seat belt fits them.

## The right car safety seat Infants-rear-facing

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that all infants should ride rear-facing starting with their first ride home from the hospital until they have reached at least 1 year of age and weigh at least 20 pounds. It is even better for them to ride rear-facing until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer. There are 2 types of seats: infant-only seats and convertible seats.

### Infant-only seats

- Are small and have carrying handles.
- Are used for infants up to 22 to 30 pounds.
- Many come with a base that can be left in the car. The seat clicks into and out of the base so you don't have to install the base each time you use it. Parents can even buy more than one base for additional vehicles.

### Convertible seats (used rear-facing)

- Can be used rear-facing then "converted" to forward-facing for older children. This means the seat can be used longer by your child. They are bulkier and do not come with carrying handles or a separate base.
- Have higher rear-facing weight and height limits than infant-only seats, which is ideal for bigger babies.
- Have the following types of harnesses:



- 5-point harness—attach at the shoulders, hips, and between the leg



- Overhead shield—a padded tray-like shield that swings down over the child



- T-shield—a padded t-shaped or triangle-shaped shield attached to the shoulder straps

### Installation tips for rear-facing seats

When using a rear-facing seat, keep the following in mind:

- Make sure the car safety seat is installed tightly in the vehicle and that the harness fits the child snugly.
- Never place a rear-facing car safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle that has a front passenger air bag. If the air bag inflates, it will hit the back of the car safety seat, right where your baby's head is, and could cause serious injury or death.
- If your rear-facing seat has more than one set of harness slots, make sure the harnesses are in the slots at or below your baby's shoulders.



- Be sure you know what kind of seat belts your vehicle has. Some seat belts need locking clips. Locking clips come with all new car safety seats. If you're not sure, check the manual that came with your vehicle. Locking clips are not needed in most newer vehicles.
- If you are using a convertible seat in the rear-facing position, make sure the seat belt is routed through the correct belt path. Check the instructions that came with the car safety seat to be sure.
- If your vehicle was made after 2002, it may come with the LATCH system, which is used to secure car seats.
- Make sure the seat is at the correct angle so your infant's head does not flop forward. Many seats have angle indicators or adjusters that can help prevent this. If your seat does not have an angle adjuster, tilt the car safety seat back by putting a rolled towel or other firm padding (a pool noodle) under the base near the point where the back and bottom of the vehicle seat meet.
- Be sure the car safety seat is installed tightly. If you can move the seat more than an inch side to side or front to back, it's not tight enough.
- Still having trouble? There may be a certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician in your area that can help. Contact us on how to locate one.

### Toddlers and preschoolers-forward-facing

Once your child is at least 1 year of age and weighs at least 20 pounds, she can ride forward-facing. However, it is best for her to ride rear-facing to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of her car safety seat. She should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness until she outgrows it (around 4 years of age and 40 pounds).

There are 5 types of car safety seats that can be used forward-facing.

- Convertible seats—seats that "convert" from rear-facing to forward-facing seats.
- Forward-facing toddler seats—these seats can be used forward-facing with a harness for children who weigh up to 40 to 80 pounds (depending on the model).
- Combination forward-facing/booster seats—these seats can be used forward-facing with a harness for children who weigh up to 40 to 65 pounds (depending on the model) or without the harness as a booster (up to 80 to 100 pounds).
- Built-in seats—some vehicles come with forward-facing seats built in. Weight and height limits vary. Read your vehicle owner's manual or contact the manufacturer for details.
- Travel vests—these can be worn by children between 20 and 168 pounds and can be an alternative to traditional forward-facing seats. They are useful when a vehicle has lap-only seat belts in the rear.



### Installation tips for forward-facing seats

Make sure the car safety seat is installed tightly in the vehicle and that the harness fits the child snugly. To switch a convertible seat from rear-facing to forward-facing...

- Move the shoulder straps to the slots that are at or above your child's shoulders. On some convertible seats, the top harness slots must be used when facing forward. Check the instructions that came with the seat to be sure.
- You may have to adjust the recline angle of the seat. Check the instructions to be sure.
- Make sure the seat belt runs through the forward-facing belt path. When making these changes, always follow the car safety seat instructions.
- If your vehicle was made after 2002, it should come with the LATCH system, which is used to secure car safety seats. A tether is a strap that attaches to the top of a car safety seat and to an anchor point in your vehicle (see your owner's manual to find where the tether anchors are in your vehicle). Tethers give extra protection by keeping the car safety seat and the child's head from moving too far forward in a crash or sudden stop. All new cars, minivans, and light trucks have been required to have tether anchors since September 2000. New forward-facing car safety seats come with tethers. For older seats, tether kits are available. Check with the car safety seat manufacturer to find out how you can get a tether if your seat does not have one.

### School-aged children-booster seats

Booster seats are for older children who have outgrown their forward-facing car safety seats. You'll know when they've outgrown it when one of the following is true:

- He reaches the top weight or height allowed for his seat with a harness.
- His shoulders are above the top harness slots.



### Belt-positioning booster seat

- His ears have reached the top of the seat.

Booster seats are designed to raise the child up so that the lap and shoulder seat belts fit properly. High-back and backless booster seats are available. They do not come with harness straps but are used with the lap and shoulder seat belts in your vehicle, the same way an adult rides. Booster seats should be used until your child can correctly fit in lap and shoulder seat belts. Booster seats typically include a plastic clip or guide to help ensure the correct use of the vehicle lap and shoulder belts. See the instruction booklet that came with the seat for directions on how to use the guide or clip.