

Important - Chest Harness Adjustment



GREAT CARE should be taken when fitting a chest harness and the following points should always be followed:

- The straps on the harness should never be allowed to move close to or in any way cause an obstruction to the child's neck.
- The straps should never be fitted too tightly and should be clear from any obstruction.
- The sternum strap on the chest harness should always be adjusted prior to use to ensure that it is no higher than the middle of the user's chest.
- A lap strap should always be fitted if a harness is being used to ensure the child cannot slide down onto the sternum strap.
- Always ensure that the belts offer your child both comfort and support. If the child's clothing has been adjusted (i.e. a jumper removed) the straps should be re-adjusted accordingly.



Fixing Onto A Chair

The straps at the top of the harness should be attached to the back frame of the chair.

The straps at the bottom of the harness should be located to the back of the seat frame.

Fastening of Belts

- Feed the fabric belt through the buckle on the strap.
- The belts should be pulled through enough to suitably support your child whilst still being comfortable.
- When this has been achieved the buckle should be snapped closed to secure the strap in place.



The same precautions highlighted here should be adhered to when using any form of trunk supports or flexi supports with straps.



If there is any possible chance of the child getting the straps caught around their neck, **REMOVE THE HARNESS IMMEDIATELY.**



The advice here is a general recommendation. Always refer to the instruction manual for the product you are using for specific advice on fitting the harnesses and lap straps.

Important - Lap Strap Safety



Incorrect fitting of lap straps can put the user at serious risk. When using lap straps we recommend the following points should always be adhered to:

Lap Strap Fitting

The angle that the hip belt is attached to the seating system has a direct effect on the angle of pull on the pelvis.

Considerations:

- A 60° angle of attachment to the seat rail positions the hip belt anterior and inferior to the ASIS, which reduces the tendency of the client with a posterior pelvic tilt to slip underneath the belt.
- A higher angle of attachment of the primary straps encourages a posterior pelvic tilt, which assists in positioning clients with an anterior pelvic tilt.
- The secondary straps of a 4-point hip belt are attached to the seat post between 45° and 90° to hold the primary padded strap in place and to prevent the belt from riding into the abdomen or twisting.
- The angle of attachment may have to be compromised in order to accommodate such situations as wounds in the pelvic area, unstable hip joints or gastric tubes.

Tightening the belt

Keep belt tightened at adjustment straps during fitting and daily use to ensure correct pad placement. For padded hip belts the pads are to be touching when correctly tightened. For non-padded hip belts the

adjustment strap at the buckle should be approximately 3" (76mm) long. Education of the care giver is essential for correct hip belt positioning.

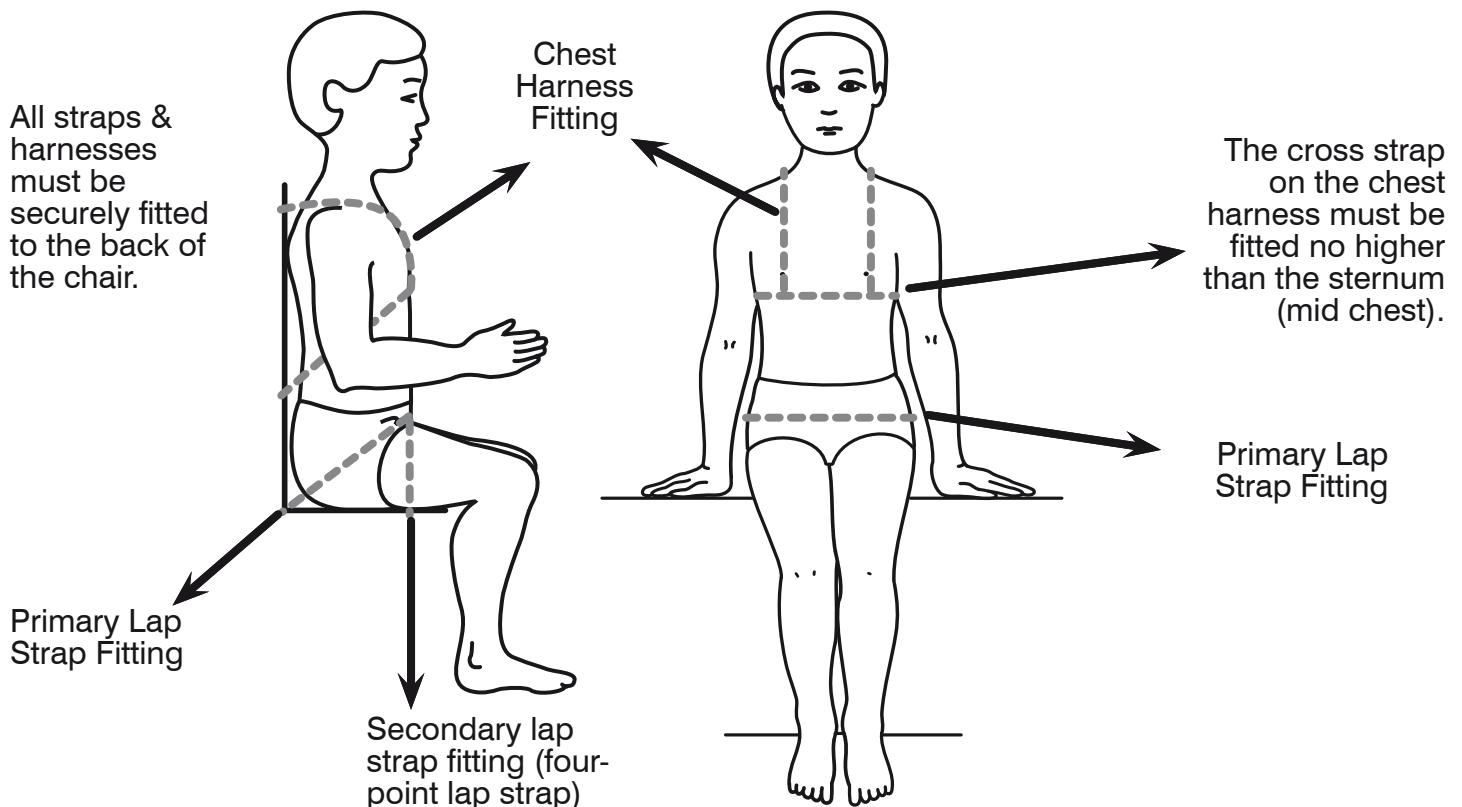
Sizing

Measure hip width to determine the belt size required. The suggested method for measuring hip width is from trochanter to trochanter. If this is not possible, measure from ASIS to ASIS and add a couple of inches. The correct belt size for the individual has padding that covers all of the bony prominences.

- Always check that the child's pelvis is symmetrical and positioned securely at the back of the seat.
- Always ensure that the lap straps and chest harness hold the child securely and are comfortable. Ensure they provide a snug fit, a simple rule of thumb is to allow two fingers to be inserted between the belt and the child's body.
- Never leave a child in a chair unattended without the lap strap being fastened.
- A lap strap should always be fitted if a harness is being used.
- When altering the angle between the seat and the back of the chair always re-adjust the chest harness and lap strap accordingly to ensure all safety recommendations are followed.

Harness and Lap Strap Positioning

This diagram shows the recommended positioning of the chest harness and lap straps:



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