

Check Your Child's Posture

Developing and maintaining good posture in childhood and adolescence is important for good health.

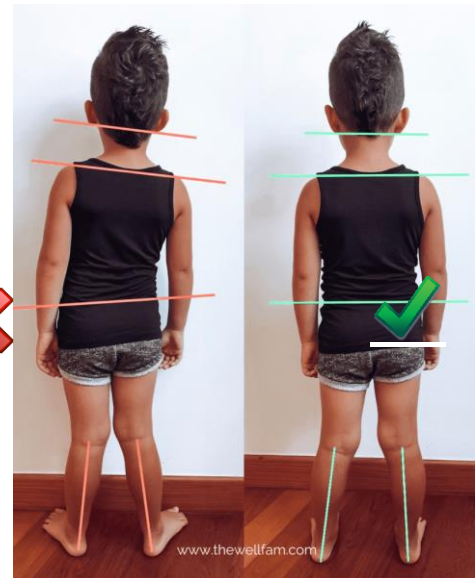
Posture in children can be influenced by a number of factors including:

- Their activity levels
- Their age and gender
- Their self-confidence
- Their height and weight
- Seating equipment at school and home
- The weight and size of their schoolbag

Check your child's posture

Points to look for

- Ear height
- Shoulder heights
- Hip heights
- Leg angles



Consult your chiropractor if your child:

- You have noticed asymmetry in the way they sit or stand
- Complains of persistent back or neck pain that interferes with sleep or daily activities
- Slouches over and is unable to stand up straight
- Appears to have uneven posture with a curve in the spine when standing

Tips for good posture

- Ensure that chairs and desks are the appropriate size and height for your child. The chair should allow their feet to touch the floor when their bottom is positioned at the back of the chair. The backrest should provide support from the lower back to the shoulder blades.
- Ensure school backpacks are worn over both shoulders and that heavier items are packed close to the child's back (<https://caringhandschiro.files.wordpress.com/2023/03/back-to-school-2023-checklist.png>)
- Limit television and computer time. Encourage regular walking, moving and stretching breaks when sitting for prolonged periods at the computer, doing homework, watching TV or playing video games.
- Posture reversal reduces fatigue and potential strain and pain in muscles, ligaments and joints. Ask your chiropractor to show you this at your next visit.
- Long periods of sitting should be combined with different positions such as standing or lying on their tummy to stretch out their back.
- Encourage your child to be physically active and involved in regular exercise.

References

https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/rheumatology/Good_posture_and_spine_care_in_children.pdf
<https://americanpostureinstitute.com/>