Fact or Fiction

October 2019
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Objectives

• Dispel inaccurate information
• Reinforce accurate information
• Provide resources that support best practice
Fact or Fiction

It's takes a character to sell a character.

Fact

Tony Jerisha currently is the CPS Advocate for Kids Embrace.

A Character selling car seat Characters
Fact or Fiction
It is acceptable to use any of the recent LATCH manuals from Safe Ride News to provide guidance to a family curbside.

Fiction
The LATCH manual is revised and published every two years. Changes are made as new information becomes available so the best practice is to only use the current LATCH manual.

Want to learn more about LATCH? Check out the webinars on the CPS Board website.
Fact or Fiction

The 80/20 Car seat overhang guideline does not always apply.

Fact

Read CR instructions regarding the amount of overhang, if any, that is allowed by each manufacturer for each car seat. Some CRs require 100% of CR on the vehicle seat. Example: Graco Nautilus
Fact

- Booster mode will not allow any overhang – off the front or side.
- Some vehicle seats do not allow enough of the child seat base to contact the vehicle seat. If this is the case for a forward-facing installation, adjust the seat to the upright position.
- For a rear-facing installation, choose another seating position. Not doing so could cause the child seat to not perform as intended.
- Permissible for convertibles to allow up to 3 inches off front edge.
- Being phased in to all instructions or User Guides.

Fact or Fiction

Car seat manufacturers have made efforts to increase tether usage to caregivers.
Fact

- Kids Embrace
- Eventflo Maestro Sport
- Diono
- Britax

Fact

- UPPAbaby Knox: Universal tether
Fact or Fiction

You can never use an aftermarket mat under your car seat unless it was made by the manufacturer of your car seat and specifically approved for use with that seat.

Fiction

Some manufacturers do allow use of a mat, even if they didn't make it.
Fact or Fiction

A wet seat can affect the performance of a front passenger seat sensing system for the air bag.

Fact

In some of the newer vehicles, the occupant protections systems may be affected by a liquid that has soaked in to the seat which may result in turning off the passenger air bag. If this happens:
• Off indicator will be lit
• Air bag readiness light will also be lit

Liquid pooled on the seat that hasn’t soaked in:
• May enable or turn on the passenger air bag while a CRS or child occupant is on the seat
• If the passenger air bag is turned on, the on indicator will be lit
Fact

Source: 2015 Chevrolet Equinox owner’s manual

Fact or Fiction

All rear facing car seats can touch the front passenger seats in a vehicle.
Fiction

• Evenflo RFOs require 1.5 inches of space

Evenflo

• If you are unable to use the center rear seating position and have to install this child restraint directly behind a front vehicle seat, ensure that there is at least 38 mm (1.5 inches) of space between any part of the child restraint and the vehicle seat that is closest to the child's head. This space may be necessary for the child restraint to properly perform in certain types of crashes.

Fiction

The MESA isn’t allowed to contact the front passenger seats due to crash condition requirements.

Always read car seat instructions.

https://uppbaby.com/faq/mesa/
Fact or Fiction

The Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety’s (MACPS) researches issues that affect car seats and develops harmonized statements to help guide technicians.

Fact

These statements may include information that is not always printed in the CRS owner’s manual.

EXAMPLES

• Expiration Dates
• Accessories / Non-Regulated Products
• Recline Angle Indicators
• Switchable Retractor and Belt-Positioning Boosters
• Car Seats Gate-Checked or Checked as Luggage
Fact or Fiction

A rear face tether can be used in vehicles as long as it is attached to a non-movable structure.

Fiction

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE STARTING YOUR VEHICLE 103

WARNING! (Continued)

9. Test that the child restraint is installed tightly by pulling back and forth on the child seat at the seat belt path. It should not move more than 1 inch (25.4 mm) in any direction.

Any seat belt system will loosen with time, so check the seat belt occasionally, and pull it tight if necessary.

Installing Child Restraints Using The Top Tether Anchorage

WARNING!

Do not attach a tether strap for a rear-facing car seat to any location in front of the car seat, including the seat frame or a tether anchorage. Only attach the

2015 Chrysler 200
Fact or Fiction

You can put a tightly rolled towel under the back of a BPB.

Fact – if the manual says you can
Fact or Fiction

A car seat installation should be so tight there is no movement when checked at the belt path.

Fiction

Over-tightening a safety belt could damage the belt path of a car seat and/or its lock-off.* Car seats should be installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Proper tightness should be confirmed by grasping the car seat with one hand at or near the belt path and pulling on the car seat. There should be no more than one inch of side-to-side or front-to-back movement at the belt path.

(September 2010)
https://www.saferidenews.com/macps/harmonized/
Fact or Fiction

There is a car seat that converts to a stroller.

Fact

• Doona (Simple Parenting)
• RFO
  • 4 to 35 lbs.
  • 32 inches or less
  • Handle is anti-rebound bar
  • Base has lock offs
Simple Parenting: Doona

• Weight: 21.4 pounds
• Product Dimensions: 19 x 18 x 22 inches

Triple Play Sit n Stroll
Fact or Fiction

Shoulder belts are always routed under the arm of a booster.

Fiction

The Dorel Topside and Boostapak routes the shoulder belt OVER the booster arm.
Fact or Fiction

Car seats can be used fully reclined for kids to sleep (outside the car).

Fact

- Cybex: Aton Cloud Q
- RFO
  - 4 to 35 lbs.
  - 30 inches or less
  - Converts to a full-recline position outside of the car.
Cybex: Aton Cloud Q

- Lie-flat function inside and outside the car
- 4 up to 22 lbs; Pro 2 XL 4-35 lbs.
- Newborn inlay used to 6 months
- Special insert for premature babies (accessory)
- European Belt Path
Lie Flat Function

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAbcDith5D8

Fact or Fiction

Crotch rolls and receiving blankets may be used within car seats.
Fact & Fiction

Though it is commonly acceptable, not always!
Tip: Visit manufacturer FAQs on their websites


Fact or Fiction

A label is required for car seats with internal harnesses for which the combined weight of the car seat and the maximum recommended child weight exceeds 65 lbs.
Fact

Do not use the lower anchors of the child restraint anchorage system (LATCH system) to attach this child restraint when restraining a child weighing more than * with the internal harnesses of the child restraint.

No math is required.
Fact or Fiction

Some car seats are approved for installation with inflatable seat belts.

Fact

Check with the manufacturer. Sometimes it is approved, sometimes not.

February 17, 2016

Can I use an inflatable seat belt to install my Britax car seat?

Yes. Britax has revised its recommendations and based upon an analysis of vehicle seat belt system testing results, the current Ford Motor Company (Ford and Lincoln vehicles) inflatable seat belt system is approved for use with all Britax car seats made to date EXCEPT B-Safe 35, B-Safe 35 Elite, Marathon ClickTight, Boulevard ClickTight, and Advocate ClickTight. Britax will continue to evaluate information provided by automobile inflatable seat belt manufacturers and may revise these recommendations as new data becomes available.

When installing an approved Britax car seat with a harness and a Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belt, we recommend the following:

- B-Safe Infant Car Seat
- Chaperone Infant Car Seat
- Convertible Car Seats
- Harness-2-Booster Seats
- Belt-Positioning Booster Seats

https://us.britax.com/service-support/inflatable-seat-belt-policy/
Fact or Fiction

If your seat came with harness strap covers, you are always able to use them.
Fiction

For at least 1 seat, anyway. Graco Extend2Fit does not allow harness strap covers to be used forward-facing.

Check the manual

• The Graco E2F 3-in-1 DOES allow them to be used FF. Does not say to remove.

13. Tighten the Harness by Pulling the Harness Adjustment Strap
When you are not able to pinch any of the harness webbing at your child’s shoulder, the harness is tight enough. A snug harness should not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child’s flesh or push the child’s body into an unnatural position.

14. Raise the Chest Clip to Child’s Armpit Level
Fact or Fiction

Car crash deaths are on the rise.

Fiction New Data Shows Falling

Traffic deaths dropped by nearly 1,000 to 36,560 in 2018. Fatalities among children (14 and younger) declined 10%. While drunk driving fatalities accounted for 29% of deaths — it’s the lowest percentage on record. Pedestrian deaths increased to 6,283 — the highest since 1990. 857 bicyclists died, up more than 6% from 2017. There were 4,985 motorcycle fatalities, an almost 5% decrease. There were 9,378 speeding-related deaths, an almost 6% decrease from 2017.
Fact or Fiction

Belt pretensioners are the same as lockoffs.

Fiction

They may LOOK like a lockoff but are not.

EX: Cybex Aton 2
Must lock the belt!

**Nuna RAVA**

**belt is best**

- eliminates confusion of when to switch from Lower Anchors to Vehicle Seat Belt
- fits more vehicle makes
- fits more seating positions

Nuna’s preferred installation method for RAVA is the Vehicle Seat Belt.

Do not use the lower anchors of the child restraint anchorage system (LATCH system) to attach this child restraint when restraining a child weighing more than 40 lb (18.1 kg) with the internal harness of the child restraint.

FL-0023C
Fact or Fiction

Any tether connector strap may be used on any child restraint that permits rear-face tethering.

Fiction

Use only the tether attachment/connector strap with a specific manufacturer and only with the models specified by the manufacturer.

Example: You cannot use a Diono tether connector strap on a BRITAX car seat.
Fact or Fiction

Ford is the only vehicle manufacturer with inflatable seat belts.

Fiction

In addition to Ford, Mercedes-Benz has an inflatable belt that they call a “BeltBag”.
Inflatable Seat Belts

Fact or Fiction

Lower anchor guides or guidance fixtures may be used to make accessibility easier for the caregiver.
Fact

One exception: They can only be used for rigid anchors or mini-connectors. Not to be used with hook attachments.

Fact or Fiction

Vehicle integrated car seats have expiration dates.
Fiction

Integrated car seats usually do not have an expiration date because the (integrated child restraints) are designed to be used for the life of the vehicle. If an integrated child seat is occupied during a crash, it may need to be replaced. If a harness is frayed or damaged in some way, it should be replaced. Contact the vehicle manufacturer for more information.

Fact or Fiction

Vehicles are required when working with an instructor or tech proxy for your seat checks required for recertification.
Fact

Real vehicles are required when working with an instructor or tech proxy for your seat checks required for recertification.

At the discretion of the instructor or tech proxy, you can have a mock scenario, but actual vehicles are always required.

http://cert.safekids.org/i-am-a-tech/recertification/seat-checks

Fact or Fiction

Don’t use a lockoff if a button or folded webbing from a seat belt interferes in closing the lockoff.
Fact

In the event a button or folded webbing interferes with a CR install, **check the CR manufacturers' instructions first.**

You may be able to bypass the lockoff, use a locking clip, switchable retractor, the locking latch plate, or use the lower anchors instead of the seat belt.

If none of these options work, try a different seating position in the vehicle. Most CR manufacturers will want the closed so it doesn’t break, always consult the CR instructions first.

Nuna
Vehicle Restraints that have a Sewn-in Loop or Button

- Do not force the lock-off door closed. It will not close.
- Instead close the lock off door and route the belt as shown and use the vehicle restraints locking mechanism either in the retractor or the latch plate. *Please note: The tension indicator should be green with no red.*

Fact or Fiction

Solid core pool noodles are better to use than regular pool noodles (with a hole in them) for an installation.
**Fiction**

There are no standards on pool noodles. Pool noodles vary in density whether they have a core or not.

At least one manufacturer requires solid core noodles.

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reclined. If the Car Seat is too reclined adjust the Car Seat as shown in (Fig 59-1) until the Seat Angle Indicator shows NO red. If the Car Seat is too upright, place a tightly rolled towel, or car seat solid noodle, under the foot end of the Car Seat until the Seat Angle Indicator shows NO red. (Fig 59-2)

Re-tighten the vehicle seat belt. Check the Seat Angle Indicator to see if the seat is now level (no red showing).
Fact or Fiction

Shelf liner is a must at car seat inspections or events.

Fiction

Avoid it.
You should be able to get a snug fit without shelf liner, even on the squishiest of seats.

Shelf liner does not make the install any more snug.
Fact or Fiction

The Dynamic Locking Latchplate provides lockability to secure a car seat.

Fiction

• There is a category of latchplate: Dynamic Locking
• They may look like traditional locking latchplates but they are not meant to secure car seats.
Fact or Fiction

Level indicators are for assisting the caregiver to get the correct angle for rear facing car seats only.
**Fiction**

- Level indicators are not limited to rear facing only seats.
  - Safety 1st Rumi has an indicator line for forward facing.
  - EX: Chicco NextFit (image) has angle indicators for rear and forward facing positions.

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**Fact or Fiction**

A small gap between the car seat and vehicle seat back when installed is not a poor installation.
Fact

Car seat designs may in fact not fit snugly against the vehicle seat back. It may be an issue with the headrest or contour of the vehicle seat.

For example, Britax in their FAQ section says that with their Next Generation convertibles forward facing that a small gap between the car seat and vehicle seat back when installed is OK as long as it is a snug installation.

Fact or Fiction

You can always use a pool noodle or rolled towel when using an adjustable base of a rear-facing only seat.
Fiction

Some manufacturers, such as Chicco, do not want pool noodles used with their infant bases or convertible car seats.

Neither rolled towels nor noodles are approved in manual. (Chicco KeyFit30)
Fact or Fiction

Any federally approved vehicle equipped with a seat belt is able to secure a child restraint.

Fiction

Always read the CR and vehicle manufacturer instructions.
• Low speed vehicles (like golf carts) are not approved by most CRS manufacturers.
MACPS Harmonized Statement

Car Seats and LSVs
Car seats are designed for the FMVSS 213 bench and motor vehicle seats meeting the federal motor vehicle safety standard definitions of “passenger car” and “multipurpose passenger vehicle.” In both these definitions, “low speed vehicle” is excluded. While low speed vehicles may meet some federal motor vehicle safety standards, they are not the same standards as passenger cars or multipurpose passenger vehicles, and therefore, car seats may not perform as designed when used in those vehicle types. It is not recommended to rely on car seats to protect children while travelling in low speed vehicles. Most car seat manufacturers prohibit use of car seats in low speed vehicles. Refer to the individual car seat manufacturers for more information.

(March 2011)

Fact or Fiction

The instructor team pre-certification course meeting is required for instructors and instructor candidates.
Fact and more...

It is required for the entire team including course assistants.

Keep up the great work!
Thank You!

Questions?
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