Fact or Fiction
March 2020
Objectives

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

Sliding and Sewn-On Latch Plates both have locking features.
Fiction

Sliding and Sewn-On Latch Plates have **no locking feature** or moving parts.
Fact or Fiction

Booster seats **cannot** be used on an airplane.
Fact

Since lap-only belts are used on airplanes, booster seats are NOT approved for airplane use.
Fact or Fiction

Three conditions must be present to use a locking clip:

1. Retractor = ALR (automatic locking)
2. Latch Plate = Sliding
3. Lap-and-shoulder belt is one piece of webbing
Fiction

Three conditions must be present to use a locking clip:

1. Retractor = **ELR** (non-locking)
   - Emergency locking retractor

1. Latch Plate = sliding or Dynamic (non-locking)

2. Lap-and-shoulder belt is one piece of webbing
Fact or Fiction

the hard questions
Fact or Fiction

Bubble Bum is the only foldable/de-flatable booster.
Bubble Bum

Video
Fiction

Video
Fiction

Video

rear-facing • forward-facing • booster seat • seat belts

www.cpsboard.org
Fact or Fiction

Cleaning fabrics of car seats varies depending on the manufacturer.
Fact

Some manufacturers offer machine washable car seat fabrics.

*It’s crucial to read the car seat instructions for cleaning fabrics and other components.*
Cleaning Fabrics

Safety 1st
MultiFit EX Air 4-in-1 convertible car seat

Features:
• Adapts for Multiple Ages and Stages
• Side Impact Protection
• 3 Body Insert Pillows
• Machine Washable and Dryer Safe Seat Pad
• Soft Touch Cup Holders
Cleaning Fabrics

UPPAbaby, Mesa

CLEANING FABRICS
Fabrics include: seat pad, infant inserts, buckle pads and shoulder pad.

- Machine wash in cold water on gentle cycle with mild detergent.
- Dry flat and away from direct sunlight before re-use or storage.
- DO NOT bleach, iron or dry clean.

CLEANING HARNESS WEBBING + CANOPY

- Spot clean using warm water with mild detergent.
- Air dry completely before re-use or storage.
- DO NOT bleach or iron.

CLEANING PLASTIC

- Spot clean using warm water with mild detergent.
- Towel dry completely before re-use or storage.
- DO NOT bleach.
Cleaning Fabrics

Car Seat Cleaning

FAabric Care Instructions

Step 1
If the spot has dried, try lightly brushing or scraping off the residue. Wipe surface with water.

Step 2
If a spot still remains, apply a mild detergent to fabric with a light mist.

Step 3
Work area using soft brush or edge of spoon from outside of spot towards the middle.

Step 4
Allow solution to work for approximately one minute.

Step 5
Remove with clean water or blot with clean soft towel.
Fact or Fiction

Ford is the only vehicle manufacturer with inflatable seat belts.
In addition to Ford (starting in 2011), Mercedes-Benz has an inflatable belt that they call a “BeltBag” (starting in 2014) and Lexus calls it the “Airbelt” or “SRS Seat Belt Airbag.”
Inflatable Seat Belts

Ford Inflatable Seat Belt

Video
Inflatable Seat Belts

Mercedes-Benz Belt Bag

Video
Inflatable Seat Belts

Lexus Seat Belt Airbag

The SRS Seat Belt Airbag being fitted to the Lexus LFA.

Lexus
Fact or Fiction

Car seats are approved for installation with inflatable seat belts.
Fact or Fiction

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

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

Not all models of BRITAX car seats are approved for use with inflatable seat belts.

At this time, ONLY the Ford Motor Company (Ford and Lincoln vehicles) Inflatable seat belt system is approved for use with the specific BRITAX models.

If your car seat model is not on the list it is NOT approved for use with the Ford inflatable seat belt system or any other inflatable seat belt system. January 23, 2018
Inflatable seat belts:
Move to LATCH seating position, if available. Follow the vehicle manufacturer’s instructions for use with child restraints. Do NOT use the shoulder belt Lock-Off on this Child Restraint with inflatable belt systems.
A dual latch plate belt system is the only modern seat belt in which assembly before use may be required.
Fact

**Seat Belt with Detachable Anchor**

1. Pull out the seat belt’s small latch plate and the latch plate from each holding slot in the ceiling.

2. Line up the triangle marks on the small latch plate and anchor buckle. Make sure the seat belt is not twisted. Attach the belt to the anchor buckle.
3. Insert the latch plate into the buckle. Properly fasten the seat belt the same way you fasten the lap/shoulder seat belt.

Seat Belt with Detachable Anchor

To unlatch the detachable anchor, insert a key into the slot on the side of the anchor buckle.
Fact or Fiction

Car seats are not safe to be installed in the “magic slide” 2nd row seat in the 2018 Honda Odyssey.
Fiction

“Magic Slide” Vehicle Seats

Video
“Magic Slide” Vehicle Seats

Video
Fact or Fiction

Children are 5x safer rear facing according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Fiction

A re-analysis of the data found that while rear-facing still appeared to be safer than forward-facing for children younger than 2, the injury numbers were too low to reach statistical significance. The AAP decided to update its recommendations.

RF is much safer, but not 5x safer
(article was retracted)
American Academy of Pediatrics

Use this instead:

AAP recommends children remain in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their seat.
Fact or Fiction

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

- Kids Embrace
- Evenflo Maestro Sport
- Diono
- Britax
Tethers

Colored tether straps and tether housing!

Kids Embrace

Evenflo Maestro Sport
Tethers

Energy Absorbing Versa-Tether®

Video
The tether can be routed around the back of the seat and attached to the car’s regular top tether anchor. Because it only routes around one side of the seat, it leaves the other side clear for easy loading of the child.
Fact or Fiction

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

Liquid that has soaked in to the seat may result in **turning off** the passenger air bag.

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.
Wording not found in 2019 manual!
Fact or Fiction

The Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety (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-Approved Products
• Recline Indicators
• Switchable Retractor and Belt-Positioning Booster Seat
• Car Seats Gate-Checked or Checked as Luggage

MACPS at Safe Ride News
MACPS Harmonized Statements

ALERT: These are **NOT** policy statements.

They are joint agreements to certain situations by members of the MACPS.
Example: Why Expiration Dates?

Expiration dates vary between manufacturer and possibly between specific models or car seats made by the same manufacturer. Expiration dates can be found in a few places on the car seats and booster seats.

✓ Possible deterioration or breakdown of the plastic shell and other parts.
✓ Updated performance standards or labeling requirements.

The MACPS encourages adherence to expiration dates as stated by each manufacturer for its child restraints.
Example: Why Expiration Dates?

The benefits of expiration dates include:

1. Phasing out older seats
   (a) benefit from new advancements in safety and technology
   (b) incorporate the latest regulatory requirements.

2. Discouraging secondhand car seat use and remove recalled products out of circulation.
Fact or Fiction

Full-size vans are labeled as school buses and protect with compartmentalization because they are large and are sometimes used for school purposes.
Fiction

Unless a stamped plate or sticker on a vehicle states “School Bus” as the vehicle’s body type, the seating is not compartmentalized.
Fact or Fiction

You can never use a non-approved product (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

There is a car seat that converts to a stroller.
Fact

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

Video
The Sit ‘n’ Stroll is internationally patented & meets the FMVSS 213 for children from 5 TO 40 pounds.

The Sit ‘n’ Stroll is an FAA Certified Flight Seat.
Triple Play Sit n Stroll

Video
Fact or Fiction

You can put a tightly rolled towel under the back of a Belt-Positioning Booster Seat.
Fact

Always review manual thoroughly

Booster Mode Seat Installation Positioning

Evenflo SafeMax All-in-One

Booster Mode Seat Installation Positioning

Tightly rolled towel or small blanket

Ensure base is level with ground.
If necessary, a towel/small blanket may be rolled up and placed beneath the edge of the base.
Rolled Towel

Chase Select™ /LX™
Child Restraint System

Owner's Manual
Keep for future use

Exclusive RightFit Belt Path

Child Requirements
10-49.3 kg
22-110 lbs
71-145 cm
28-57 in

If the level line is not parallel to the ground, before fastening the child restraint to the vehicle seat, place a tightly rolled towel/small blanket beneath the bottom rear of the booster seat, as shown.

Canadian Models Only
Fact or Fiction

Shoulder belts are always routed under the arm of a booster.
Fiction
Dorel Top Side Booster

The Dorel Topside and Boostapak routes the shoulder belt OVER the booster arm.
Safety 1st Boostapak

Video
3. **Buckle Lap and Shoulder Belt**

Route lap portion of the lap/shoulder belt under both armrests. The shoulder belt **must** go **OVER** the armrest on the vehicle buckle side.

Lap belt should cross the child’s thighs.

4. **Place Child in Seat**

Child should sit with its back flat against the vehicle seat and bottom flat against the seat base.

Make sure that the belt positioning clip’s strap is across the child’s back as shown.

a. The shoulder belt should lay snugly across the center of the child’s shoulders and across the chest (not on the face or neck).

Pull up on the shoulder belt to tighten.

Check periodically to ensure you child has not moved out of position and loosened the shoulder belt.

**NOTE:** Make sure the belt positioning clip is behind the child’s back.
Fact or Fiction

Some car seats can be used fully reclined in a stroller.
Fact

Cybex: Aton Cloud Q

ADJUSTING THE RECLINE POSITION

A new function of the Cloud Q is that it can be reclined to an almost horizontal position outside of the car. With an extended leg-rest and a fully reclined backrest, the child can lie comfortably and in an ergonomically correct position.

The recline angle can be adjusted easily with one hand without having to take the child out of the carrier, and the handle remains in the carrying position for easier mobility.

1. While holding one hand on the handle, simply squeeze the Recline Release Handle and push the seatback down until it locks into the full recline position. In the reclined position a red blocker closes off the lap belt guide to indicate that it is not allowed to use the carrier in a vehicle when the carrier is reclined.

2. To get back to Car Seat Mode simply squeeze the Recline Release Handle and lift backrest up until it locks into the upright position.

Combined with the CYBEX Priam and M-strollers the Cloud Q becomes a both striking and very practical travel system.

⚠️ The CYBEX CLOUD Q must only be reclined outside of the vehicle.

NEVER INSTALL this child restraint in a vehicle when the carrier is in the reclined position.
Cybex: Aton Cloud Q

Video

rear-facing • forward-facing • booster seat • seat belts
Fact or Fiction

A label is required for internal harness use with lower anchors for which the combined weight of the car seat and the maximum recommended child weight exceeds 65 lbs.
Fact

No math is required
Fact or Fiction

Belt tensioners are the same as lock-offs.
Fiction

Belt tensioners may LOOK like a lock-off but are not.

EX: Cybex Aton 2
Cybex Aton 2

Video
Belt Tensioners

Cybex Aton 2

Must Lock Belt!
The following types of vehicle belts **CAN BE USED** to install this Child Restraint.

1. Lap/Shoulder Belt
2. Lap Belt Only

**Belts MUST be able to be locked.**

Refer to vehicle owner's manual to determine if the belts in your vehicle lock by switching the seat belt's retractor or they have a locking latch plate that locks the vehicle's seat belts so they will not move freely.

If the belt cannot be locked using one of these methods, contact Nuna Customer Service for a locking clip.

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**Example: NUNA RAVA FF installation instructions**

**Using Vehicle Lap/Shoulder Belt (preferred method)**

8. Route vehicle Lap/Shoulder belt through **BLUE** Rear Facing Belt Path and buckle vehicle Lap/Shoulder Belt. Vehicle belt must be routed under True Tension Door. (36)-1

9. **Lock vehicle shoulder belt by pulling it all the way out and letting it go back in, and remove all slack from vehicle Lap/Shoulder Belt.** (36)-2

10. Close True Tension Door and replace Seat Cover and Infant Insert (if used). (37)

11. Test by pulling on shoulder belt to ensure it is locked.
Fact or Fiction

Rear-facing car seats can touch the back of the driver or passenger’s seat.
Fact or Fiction

Some don’t!

Many do allow the CR to touch the front seats.

Check with the CR manufacturer.
Fact or Fiction

Example: Evenflo Rear-Facing Only

**require 1.5 inches of space**

- Only for Evenflo rear-facing only seats
- Only for out-board positions
- Space may be necessary for the child restraint to properly perform in certain types of crashes
Rear Facing Seats

The UPPAbaby is allowed to make contact with the front vehicle seat if it does not impact the installation of the car seat and is approved by the vehicle manufacturer.
Fact or Fiction

While installing child restraint systems in adjacent seating positions, it is possible that the vehicle seat belts cross over each other because of the anchor locations in the vehicle seat bight.
Fact or Fiction

Maybe!
Always follow manufacturer instructions and secure child restraints securely.
Fact or Fiction

If your seat came with harness strap covers, you might **not** be able to use them.
Fact

- Install this car seat tightly in your vehicle. Car seat **should not move** at the forward-facing belt path more than 1” (2.5 cm) from side to side, front to back.
- Harness straps need to be **even with or just above** the top of child’s shoulders and chest clip is at **armpit level**.
- **DO NOT USE** the leg extender forward-facing.
- **Remove the harness covers when using this seat forward facing.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and NHTSA recommend that children be rear-facing until the age of 2 or until they reach the maximum rear-facing height and weight. This car seat can remain rear-facing up to 50 lb (22.5 kg). (do not install with LATCH for a child greater than 45 lb (20 kg))
Harness Covers Allowed

Harness Covers
Make sure that harness covers do not interfere with placement of the chest clip at armpit level.
To remove, undo the fastening strips and remove.

Headrest Pillow
Slide head pillow into opening in head support as shown. Curved bottom of head pillow allows for head pillow to be pulled down to fit smaller infants.
Fact or Fiction

A Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) equipped with a seat belt can secure a child restraint.
What is considered Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs)?

LSVs include any 4-wheeled vehicle, other than a truck, with a maximum speed greater than 20 mph, but not greater than 25 mph.

Car seats are designed to meet FMVSS 213 requirements

Differences (to name a few): Bench, seatbelt anchor points, speeds, sled direction

Car seats are not recommended to be used with LSVs.

LSVs - not defined as Passenger Class Vehicles (FHWA) or Multipurpose Passenger vehicles
Fiction

Always read the CR and vehicle manufacturer instructions.

Low speed vehicles (like golf carts) are not approved by most CRS manufacturers.
Babytrend Hybrid 3-in-1

2.0 WARNINGS

- This Car Seat is designed and tested to accommodate a child of a specific range of WEIGHT and HEIGHT. Using the Car Seat for a child whose weight or height is outside of these limits will increase the risk of death or serious injury in the event of a crash (see Section 5.0 of this manual for WEIGHT and HEIGHT limits for this car seat).
- DO NOT dress your child in bulky clothing or other garments that will hinder the harness from being properly latched between your child’s legs and belts being snugly adjusted around your child.
- Not all vehicle seat belts or seating locations can be used with this Car Seat. Read vehicle owner’s manual and “Vehicle Seat Belts” section in this manual.
- Some vehicles do not have any safe location for this Car Seat to be installed. In addition, many vehicles do not have seat belt systems that will adequately hold this Car Seat in the required position. Please refer to both this manual and your vehicle owner’s manual for complete information for proper, safe installation of this Car Seat.
- This Car Seat is certified for use in motor vehicles and for use on aircraft in Toddler Car Seat use mode. DO NOT use this Car Seat in the home, on boats or other non-certified applications.
Fact or Fiction

Vehicle integrated car seats have expiration dates.
Fiction

**Integrated car seats** 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.

Contact the vehicle manufacturer for more information.
Integrated Booster

Volvo

Video
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 for your seat checks required for recertification.
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 can give you a false sense of security!
Fact or Fiction

The AngelRide Infant Car Bed has been discontinued indefinitely.
The CPS community and especially those working in NICUs with low-weight and fragile infants will be glad to learn that the AngelRide Infant Car Bed is once again available after an absence of more than two years.
Fact or Fiction

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

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

There is no longer an option for children in casts since the discontinuation of the Hippo car seat by Snug Seat.
Fiction
(examples)

Convaid R82 Quokka (pronounced kwok-uh), can be used rear facing and forward facing.

Convaid R82 Wallaroo with the Spica Kit for forward facing.
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?

NATIONAL
CHILD
PASSenger
SAFETY
CERTIFICATION

A Program of Safe Kids Worldwide