Fact or Fiction

March 2016
Fact or Fiction

- As long as the car seat manufacturer allows, you can tether a car seat when rear-facing.
Fact or Fiction

• As long as the car seat manufacturer allows, you can tether a car seat when rear-facing.

• FICTION
  – You must check with the vehicle manufacturer also, as some vehicles prohibit this due to occupant protection detection systems in the front vehicle seats.
Fact or Fiction

- The IIHS LATCH Ease of Use Ratings for vehicles provides customers with a relative safety rating of LATCH in the vehicles.

- **FICTION**
  - The IIHS ratings are based on an evaluation of how easy it is to locate and use the LATCH system in a vehicle. For example, the ratings give a lower rating to vehicles if it is difficult to connect the car seat attachments.
  - This would not relate to the overall safety of the lower anchorages, which are all certified to comply with FMVSS 225.
Fact or Fiction

• A crotch roll should not automatically be added to any car seat if there is a gap between the child and the crotch buckle when tightly harnessed.
Fact or Fiction

• A crotch roll should not automatically be added to any car seat if there is a gap between the child and the crotch buckle when tightly harnessed.

• FACT
  – You must check with the car seat manufacturer as some prohibit this practice.
Fact or Fiction

- Ford is the only manufacturer offering inflatable seat belts as an option in the rear seats of the Explorer.
Fact or Fiction

• Ford is the only manufacturer offering inflatable seat belts as an option in the rear seats of the Explorer.

• FICTION
  – Inflatable seat belts are optionally available in many Ford/Lincoln models, including:
    • Ford: 2015 Explorer, Flex, Edge, Fusion & F-150 SuperCrew Pickup
    • Lincoln: 2015 MKT & MKZ; 2016 MKX
Fact or Fiction

• A switchable retractor should still be switched when using a car seat with a built in lock-off.
Fact or Fiction

• A switchable retractor should still be switched when using a car seat with a built in lock-off.

• FICTION
  – You must review the car seat instructions to determine proper use and installation with a lock-off.
Fact or Fiction

• Front center air bags are now available on multiple crossovers and SUVs from General Motors.
Fact or Fiction

• Front center air bags are now available on multiple crossovers and SUVs from General Motors.

• FACT
  – The feature is available on these 2013-16MY mid size crossovers: Chevrolet Traverse, Buick Enclave and GMC Acadia; and on these 2015-16MY full size SUVs: Chevrolet Tahoe, Suburban, GMC Yukon and Yukon XL.
Fact or Fiction

• While, all car seats are tested the same way by the manufacturer, some can go above and beyond.
Fact or Fiction

• While, all car seats are tested the same way by the manufacturer, some can go above and beyond.

• FACT
  – All car seats must meet the requirements of FMVSS 213, but manufacturers can go above those requirements at their discretion. For example: structural testing, side impact, rear impact and roll over testing can be done in addition.
Fact or Fiction

• Car seats cannot be used in the rear seating positions of pickup trucks that have a small back with short seat cushions.
Fact or Fiction

• Car seats cannot be used in the rear seating positions of pickup trucks that have small back seat with short seat cushions.

• FICTION
  – Most pick up trucks with small rear seats cannot accommodate a car seat because the seat is too short to accommodate the base of the car seat, except in the 2015-16 Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Extended Cab Pickup. They have a rear seat cushion extension that uses the head restraint to extend the cushion and allow child restraints to be installed. Another example of why it is so important to always read instructions.
VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obA8gz_SCjc
Fact or Fiction

• Dynamic locking latchplates are only found in the front seat of vehicles.
Fact or Fiction

• Dynamic locking latchplates are only found in the front seat of vehicles.

• **FICTION**
  – The 2015-16 MY Chevrolet Colorado and the GMC Canyon extended cab pickup trucks have dynamic locking latchplates in the second row. Always test the retractor in the vehicle to see if it is a switchable retractor. If you can switch the retractor, do so to lock the belt for installing the car seat.
  – Do not assume a latchplate is a locking latchplate without confirmation from the vehicle’s owner manual.
Fact or Fiction

• Built-in (integrated) child restraints do not have expiration dates like all other child restraints.
Fact or Fiction

• Built-in (integrated) child restraints do not have expiration dates like all other child restraints.

• FACT
  – Built-in restraints are designed for the life of the vehicle. They do not expire. Technicians should check the harness and buckles to confirm that they are in working order. They may need to be replaced if the vehicle has been in a crash.
Fact or Fiction

• Never use any thing with a CR that did not come with it.
Fact or Fiction

• Never use any thing with a CR that did not come with it.

• FICTION

  – Just because it didn’t come in the box with the car seat doesn’t mean you can’t use it. There are some times when it is ok to use after-market/non-regulated items.

    • By a brand for a brand (manufactured by Britax for Britax)
    • Third party accessories approved by a manufacturer, i.e. UPPAbaby approves Brica, Munchkin, Diono Ultramat and Supermat)
Fact or Fiction

• The middle position is always the safest and should always be used.
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• The middle position is always the safest and should always be used.

• FICTION
  – While the middle position is normally considered the safest position in the vehicle, sometimes it is not accessible for use (lower anchors may not be available) or it may not get the best fit.
  – Provide the caregivers with the information and let them decide, while keeping in mind that a secure fit in a seating position approved by the vehicle manufacturer is a safe choice.
Fact or Fiction

- If the child is ‘unruly’ you should always switch a switchable retractor to ALR mode when using with a booster seat.
Fact or Fiction

• If the child is ‘unruly’ you should always switch a switchable retractor to ALR mode when using with a booster seat.

• FICTION
  – While some manufacturers may permit this, some do not. Therefore do NOT automatically assume it is ok to switch to ALR mode.
  – If the child is not fully ready to be in a booster, yet is able to undo the harness on a harnessed seat, a safer option may be a safety vest.
Fact or Fiction

• As a technician, I’m not able to attend many car seat check up events or help out at the inspection station. I feel that I’ve wasted my agency’s money in sending me to the class.
Fact or Fiction

• As a technician, I’m not able to attend many car seat check up events or help out at the inspection station. I feel that I’ve wasted my agency’s money in sending me to the class.

• **FICTION**
  – As a certified technician you are a wonderful resource to your agency and to your community even if you don’t conduct seat checks very often.
  – You are an educator and can conduct trainings on basic cps awareness.
Fact or Fiction

- The primary role of the CPS Technician is to educate caregivers on the correct selection, installation, and use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts.
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• FACT
  – From page 2-2 of the Technician Guide

CPS Technicians carry out this role with caregivers by demonstrating and explaining about:

- **Selection:** Ensuring the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt is in good condition and appropriate for the child’s age, height, weight, and developmental levels, as well as ensuring that the seat is not recalled.
- **Direction:** Facing the car seat in the correct direction for the age, height, weight, and developmental levels of the child.
- **Location:** Placing the car seat or booster seat in an appropriate location in the vehicle.
- **Installation:** Installing the car seat or booster seat in the vehicle correctly.
- **Harnessing:** Securing the child in the car seat, booster seat, or seat belt.

**NOTE:** Ensure that the caregiver can secure the child in their car seat in the vehicle.
Fact or Fiction

The 2014 Technician Guide (student manual) is available for me to download and use as a reference.
Fact or Fiction

• The 2014 Technician Guide (student manual) is available for me to download and use as a reference.

• FACT
  – The Technician Guide is available for download from the National Child Passenger Safety Board website
Fact or Fiction

You are required to attend in-person sessions to recertify as a CPS Technician.
Fact or Fiction

• You are required to attend in-person sessions to recertify as a CPS Technician.

• FICTION

You need 6 CEUs (feel free to mix and match) to recertify. You cannot carry over CEUs from one certification cycle to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required. Because your certification cycle stays the same, any CEUs obtained after you recertify but before the first day of your new certification cycle may not be applied to the new cycle.

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Total Submitted: 0.00

Eligible Based On Category Maximums: No
Fact or Fiction

• You must wait until 4 months from your certification cycle end date to enter seat checks, CEUs and community event in your online profile.
Fact or Fiction

- You MUST wait until 4 months from your certification cycle end date to enter seat checks, CEUs and community event in your online profile.

- FICTION
  - You can enter your activity ANY time in the two year certification cycle.

To get to the payment screen, you must have:

1. All 5 seat checks entered and approved
2. Entered at least 6 CEUs
3. Entered your community event information

Once all 3 are done and you are **within four months of your certification cycle end date**, you will see a "Click Here to Continue" button near the bottom of the page which will take you to the payment screens.
Fact or Fiction

• All recalled seats need to be replaced.
Fact or Fiction

• All recalled seats need to be replaced.

• FICTION
  – **Recalled seats may or may not need to be replaced.** It depends on the child seat manufacturer recall fix. A CR may be recalled because of a safety defect that could reduce the effectiveness of the seat in a crash, pose a non-crash-related hazard or due to an error on the label or instructions.
  – The term “recall” is a generic term that is used to indicate the need for: Repair, Replacement, Refund, or a warning.
  – Contacting the manufacturers customer service by calling the number listed on the labeling on the car seat can assist the technician or caregiver in clarifying the action required.
  – www.recalls.gov
Fact or Fiction

- NHTSA only regulates and recalls car seats.
Fact or Fiction

- NHTSA only regulates and recalls car seats.

**FICTION**
- NHTSA is responsible for regulating car seats, motor vehicle and related equipment and tires. Read more at [http://www.safercar.gov/](http://www.safercar.gov/)
Fact or Fiction

• Parents and caregivers often consult their vehicle and CR owners manuals for information about installing CRs.
Fact or Fiction

• Parents and caregivers often consult their vehicle and CR owners manuals for information about installing CRs.

• FACT and FICTION
  – According to the National Child Restraint Use Special Study (NCRUSS) 61% of parents did consulted the CR owners manual BUT 81% of parents did NOT consult the vehicle owner's manual. 15% of the drivers claimed that they did not read any instruction on how to properly install the CR.
Fact or Fiction

• Most car seat manufacturers now say that their car seat covers may be machine washed and dried.
Fact or Fiction

• Most car seat manufacturers now say that their car seat covers may be machine washed and dried.

• FICTION

  – Most car seat manufacturers recommend that you clean covers with mild soap and cold water and drip dry. The manufacturer may allow machine washing, delicate with mild soap, but not use of a dryer. Dish soap may be fine but do not use bleach or other harsh cleaners. Check the manual!

  – Harness straps may be spot cleaned with mild soap and water. Remember that FMVSS 213 requires manufactures to include flame retardants in the fabrics and repeated washings over time will deteriorate those retardants.
Fact or Fiction

• Any tether attachment strap may be used on any child restraint.
Fact or Fiction

• Any tether attachment strap may be used on any child restraint.

• FICTION
  – Use only the tether attachment with a specific manufacturer and only with the models specified by the manufacturer. Using an accessory or parts from another manufacturer could alter the performance of the seat.
  – Example: You cannot use a Diono tether attachment on a BRITAX car seat.
Fact or Fiction

• You are assisting a parent or caregiver in installing a CR using the lower anchors and you have checked the CR manufacturers instructions. As long as you are within the CR allowable weight limits, you are okay to install using the lower anchors.
Fact or Fiction

• You are assisting a parent or caregiver in installing a CR using the lower anchors and you have checked the CR manufacturers instructions. As long as you are within the CR allowable weight limits, you are okay to install using the lower anchors.

• FICTION
  – You must review BOTH your vehicle owner’s manual and your CR manufacturers instructions carefully regarding the maximum allowable weight of a child when securing the child safety seat using LATCH. You must ensure that the child’s weight is less than the maximum allowable weight recommended by the CR manufacturer.
  – If the child’s weight exceeds the maximum allowable weight recommended by the vehicle manufacturer for LATCH installation, then the child seat should be installed using the vehicle seat belt and, if available, a top tether, still keeping in mind the vehicle owner’s manual and the child safety seat manufacturer’s instructions.
Fact or Fiction

• It is okay for an 18 month old child to ride forward facing.
Fact or Fiction

• It is okay for an 18 month old child to ride forward facing.

• FACT
  – As long as the car seat is used according to manufacturer instructions, the caregiver is safely transporting the child. Rear facing longer is best practice, and we promote it, but we have to recognize and respect the wishes of the caregiver.
  – If a CR requires the child be at least 2 years old before using it FF, then it would not be used according to the instructions.
Fact or Fiction

- There is a car seat on the market with integrated wheels to convert the seat to a stroller.
Fact or Fiction

- There is a car seat on the market with integrated wheels to convert the seat to a stroller.

- **FACT**
  - The Doona changes from a CR to a stroller
  - Watch the [video](#)
Fact or Fiction

• In order to get the proper recline you can install a rear facing CR the adjustable foot and one pool noodle.
Fact or Fiction

• In order to get the proper recline you can install a rear facing CR the adjustable foot and one (1) pool noodle.

• **FICTION**
  – Unless the car seat manufacturer indicates otherwise, a rule of thumb is to use either the adjustable base or foot or firm lightweight object – but NOT both.
  The car seat has most likely NOT been tested this way.
Fact or Fiction

• A pool noodle may be substituted for a rolled towel to increase the recline.
Fact or Fiction

• A pool noodle may be substituted for a rolled towel to increase the recline.

• FICTION
  – Although this is true for many manufacturers, there are others that do not permit the use of a towel or noodle. Other manufacturers may allow a rolled towel but not a pool noodle. Always check the CR and vehicle manufacturers instructions before using a towel or pool noodle.
EXAMPLE: Fllo convertible car seat made by Clek. Clek advises against using pool noodles because the shape of the recline foot may lead to the pool noodles not staying in position. Pool noodles shifting can lead to an unstable installation or one that may become unstable over time, so they have chosen to only allow rolled towels and only if needed for appropriate recline.

How do I adjust Fllo’s angle when installing it rear-facing?

To increase the recline angle, use the anti-rebound bar to re-position the seat on the vehicle seat so that it is at the correct angle, then press down in the back of the seat area while tightening the vehicle or LATCH belt. A gap between the vehicle seat and the recline foot at the vehicle seat crease is permissible when the anti-rebound bar is in use. Also, a tightly rolled towel may be placed under the recline foot at the vehicle seat crease if needed to achieve the correct recline angle. Do NOT use pool noodles to adjust the recline angle as this may affect the stability of the installation.

To decrease the recline angle, use the anti-rebound bar to re-position the seat on the vehicle seat so that it is sitting more upright, then press down on the front edge of the seat while tightening the vehicle or LATCH belt, OR remove the anti-rebound bar and install the car seat without using the anti-rebound bar. Do NOT place anything between the angled portion of the base and the vehicle seat to obtain a more upright installation. The angled portion of the base MUST be in full contact with the vehicle seat without any overhang.

It is preferable to have infants under 22lb more reclined, such that the upper reference line (infants under 22 lb) is parallel to the ground. However, providing that the ground level falls within the Upper Reference Line for infants under 22lb (40 degrees from vertical) and lower reference line for children 22lb and over (30 degrees from vertical), you can safely use the seat.
Fact or Fiction

• Car seat manufacturers are coming up with new innovative ways to assist parents, caregivers and CPS Techs with installation questions and/or concerns.
Fact or Fiction

- Car seat manufacturers are coming up with new innovative ways to assist parents, caregivers and CPS Techs with installation questions and/or concerns.
- **FACT**
  - Some manufacturers have live online chat sessions, FaceTime or Skype.

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**Britax Contact Information**

**Customer Service**

If you have questions or concerns and would like to speak with a Britax representative directly, please answering questions about warranty coverage and product specifications, as well as technical questions.

**Phone:** 1-888-427-4629 (toll free)
If calling from outside the USA or Canada: 1-704-408-1699

**Email:**
Please complete our [online submission form](#) and a customer service representative will respond. [Click here](#) to provide your product information so that we can resolve your request for information.

For urgent matters, please contact Britax via phone rather than email.

**Hours of operation:**
Monday to Thursday: 8:30 am - 5:45 pm (ET)
Friday: 8:30 am - 4:45 pm (ET)

**Mailing Address:**
Britax: Child Safety, Inc.
4140 Pleasant Road
Fort Mill, SC 29708 USA

If you would like to use our online chat, please [click here](#) to launch the chat window.
Fact or Fiction

• In the case of a rear facing CR, if the child's feet or legs are touching the backseat you should instruct the parent or caregiver to consider turning the child forward facing.
Fact or Fiction

- In the case of a rear facing CR, if the child's feet or legs are touching the backseat you should instruct the parent or caregiver to consider turning the child forward facing.

- **FICTION**
  
  - It’s a common myth that when a child’s feet or legs reach the back of the vehicle seat, he or she is at increased risk for a lower-extremity injury. **According to the AAP, lower extremity injuries are rare for children who ride rear-facing.** Children can easily sit with their legs crossed or on the back of the seat.

  AAP Technical report:
  
  http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/peds.2011-0215v1
Fact or Fiction

- CR flammability requirements are to reduce deaths and injuries caused by motor vehicle fires.
Fact or Fiction

• CR flammability requirements are to reduce deaths and injuries caused by motor vehicle fires.

• FACT
  – FMVSS 213 requires CR padding to conform to the same standard as materials used in the occupant compartments of motor vehicles found in FMVSS 302.

**Standard No. 302** - Flammability of Interior Materials - Passenger Cars, Multipurpose Passenger Vehicles, Trucks, and Buses
This standard specifies burn resistance requirements for materials used in the occupant compartments of motor vehicles. Its purpose is to reduce deaths and injuries to motor vehicle occupants caused by vehicle fires, especially those originating in the interior of the vehicle from sources such as matches or cigarettes.
Fact or Fiction

• In order to be signed off for recertification, CR installations MUST be done with a real parent or caregiver in a real motor vehicle seat.
Fact or Fiction

• In order to be signed off for recertification, CR installations MUST be done with a real parent or caregiver in a real motor vehicle seat.

• FACT and FICTION
  – The verifying instructor or technician proxy must feel confident in your ability to communicate accurate information to a parent or caregiver and double-check that the installation and paperwork are correct.
  – Real or mock, an actual vehicle must always be used for seat checks.
  – The Instructor or Technician Proxy has the option to set up a mock (fake) seat check, if a family is not available.

http://cert.safekids.org/resources-faqs/faqs/im-a-tech/seat-checks
Fact or Fiction

• If the CR has no lower anchor (LA) weight limit on the label, there is no weight limit when using the lower anchors to secure the car seat.
Fact or Fiction

• If the CR has no lower anchor (LA) weight limit on the label, there is no weight limit when using the lower anchors to secure the car seat.

• FICTION
  – If the CR label does not have a LA weigh limit it means it (1) was manufactured prior to February 27, 2014 OR (2) the seat is so light that the LA weight limits are not reached. Technicians must check the CR manufacturers instructions and the vehicle LA weigh limits and compare the two.
  – LA limits can be found in the following locations:
    – LATCH manual (contains both CR and vehicle weight limits)
    – CR manufacturers instructions
Fact or Fiction

• When installing a car seat forward facing in a pickup truck it is important to check for the correct top tether anchor locations and correct routing.
Fact or Fiction

- When installing a car seat forward facing in a pickup truck it is important to check for the correct top tether anchor locations and correct routing.

- **FACT**

  There is often unusual tether routing.


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**CAUTION:**

If a LATCH-type child restraint is not attached to anchors, the restraint will not be able to protect the child correctly. In a crash, the child could be seriously injured or killed. Make sure that a LATCH-type child restraint is properly installed using the anchors, or use the vehicle's safety belts to secure the restraint, following the instructions that came with that restraint, and also the instructions in this manual.
Right Front Passenger Position Top Strap Anchor (All Models)

You’ll find the top strap anchor for the right front passenger seat behind the seat, near the floor.

If your vehicle is a regular cab model, there is also a top strap anchor for the right front passenger position located on the back panel of your vehicle, behind the right front passenger seat. In order to get to the anchor, you’ll have to remove the trim plug covering it.

Once you have the top strap anchored, you’ll be ready to secure the child restraint itself. Tighten the top strap when and as the child restraint manufacturer’s instructions say.

Rear Seat Top Strap Anchors (Extended Cab Models)

If your vehicle is an extended cab model, you’ll find the top strap anchors for the rear seating positions near the top of the seatback. In addition to the top strap anchors, each seating position has a fabric loop at the top of the seatback that you’ll use to route a top strap through.

When using a child restraint with a top strap in either rear outboard position, raise the head restraint and route the top strap through the fabric loop on the seatback. Then, attach the top strap to the anchor point at the center rear seating position.

Rear Seat Top Strap Anchors (Crew Cab Models)

When using a child restraint with a top strap in the center rear position, route the top strap through the fabric loop on the seatback. Then, raise the head restraint and attach the top strap to the anchor point located at the closest outboard position.

Once you have the top strap anchored, you’ll be ready to secure the child restraint itself. Tighten the top strap when and as the child restraint manufacturer’s instructions say.

Fact or Fiction

• Vehicle manufacturer engineers refer to the space between the seat bight and the seat surface a “bightline waterfall.”
Fact or Fiction

• Vehicle manufacturer engineers refer to the space between the seat bight and the seat surface a “bightline waterfall.”

• FACT
Fact or Fiction

• Car seats can self install after they are buckled in.
Fact or Fiction

• Car seats can self install after they are buckled in.
• **FACT** - After the caregiver attaches the base to the vehicle, the base will level and tighten itself.

https://www.4moms.com/carseat
Fact or Fiction

• When using a 15 passenger van you should always load from back to front.
Fact or Fiction

• When using a 15 passenger van you should always load from back to front.

• **FICTION** 15 passenger vans should always be loaded from the front to back to balance and distribute the weight to reduce the likelihood of a rollover.
VIDEO - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LrsZPQL-rg
Fact or Fiction

• NHTSA’s Ease of Use Ratings lets parents/caregivers know how easy each seat is to install.
Fact or Fiction

• NHTSA’s Ease of Use Ratings lets parents/caregivers know how easy each seat is to install.

• FICTION
  – No, the Ease of Use Ratings evaluate how easy certain features are to use before you buy the seat.
  – http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa_eou/
Fact or Fiction

• Air bags are dangerous for pregnant women, and should be turned off whenever possible.
Fact or Fiction

- Air bags are dangerous for pregnant women, and should be turned off whenever possible.

- **Fiction**
  - Doctors recommend that you buckle up and keep air bags on when pregnant. General guidance is to keep as much distance as possible between belly and steering wheel.
thank you