Objectives

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

Bubble Bum is the only foldable/deflatable backless booster
Fiction

http://www.mifold.com/home
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.
“Infant-thingy” is the technical term for a car seat part.
Fact

Clek infant insert for the Foonf and Fllo is called an infant-thingy.

http://clekinc.com/infant_thingy/
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

A wet seat can affect the performance of the passenger sensing system. Here is how:

- The passenger sensing system may turn off the passenger airbag when liquid is soaked into the seat. If this happens, the off indicator will be lit, and the airbag readiness light on the instrument panel will also be lit.
- Liquid pooled on the seat that has not soaked in may make it more likely that the passenger sensing system will turn on the passenger airbag while a child restraint or child occupant is on the seat. If the passenger airbag is turned on, the on indicator will be lit.

If the passenger seat gets wet, dry the seat immediately. If the airbag readiness light is lit, do not install a child restraint or allow anyone to occupy the seat. See Airbag Readiness Light on page 5-11 for important safety information.

The on indicator may be lit if an object, such as a briefcase, handbag, grocery bag, laptop or other electronic device, is put on an unoccupied seat. If this is not desired, remove the object from the seat.

⚠️ Warning

Stowing of articles under the passenger seat or between the passenger seat cushion and seatback may interfere with the proper operation of the passenger sensing system.
Fact or Fiction

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

- Check with the CR manufacturer. Many do allow the CR to touch the front seats.
- **Some don’t!** EX: Evenflo RFOs require 1.5 inches of space

![Evenflo CR](image)

- 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.
Can the MESA touch the front passenger seats in a vehicle?

No, we don’t allow the MESA to contact the front passenger seats due to crash condition requirements.

https://uppababy.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

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. In this case, Canadian models only.
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
Fact or Fiction

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

The Dorel Topside 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

USING THE INFANT CARRIER OUTSIDE OF THE VEHICLE

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.
Kiddy Evolution Pro 2

- 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
Worldwide unique lie-flat function

The Evolution Pro 2 is the only infant car seat with a lie-flat function inside and outside the car. The tested and patented technology by Kiddy was specially developed for the needs of newborns and premature infants. Since their neck muscles are not fully developed yet, the head can easily tip to the front while sleeping, which can lead to breathing problems and potentially to lower oxygen saturation. This can be prevented by a flatter lying angle.

The Evolution Pro 2 is the only infant car seat that offers this lie-flat function in the car as well*. By turning the handle, the slatted frame within the infant car seat is moved into a flat lying position. The slatted frame also absorbs the energy in the event of an accident or uneven roads and protects the sensitive spine of the baby. Add the breathability due to this design and you have superior baby comfort.

Used as a Travel System both the Evolution Pro 2 and the Evolution Pro 2 XL can be adjusted to the lie-flat position. Pediatricians and midwives recommend the lie-flat position especially for longer journeys as this ergonomic position is better for the child’s developing spine.

*Please note that the Evolution Pro 2 requires at least 31.1” of space when in the reclined position. Please check the front passenger legroom before installing the Evolution Pro 2 in the lie-flat position.
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

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

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

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/
For simplest installation use LATCH - Refer to page 34 for details.

Vehicle seat belts differ from vehicle to vehicle. Refer to your vehicle owner’s manual for specific information about seat belts and their use with Child Restraints.

Shoulder belt with switchable retractor:
Putting the shoulder belt in the locked/switched mode as the last step is optional. The shoulder belt Lock-Off replaces the need for the locked/switched mode. When the Child Restraint is rear-facing using the locked/switched mode may cause Child Restraint to tilt.

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.
Fact or Fiction

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

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 harness covers 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.
Fact

Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities
For the First 9 Months of 2016

Summary
A statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first 9 months of 2016 shows that an estimated 27,875 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. This represents an increase of about 8 percent as compared to the 25,808 fatalities that occurred in the first 9 months of 2015, as shown in Table 1. The third quarter of 2016 represents the eighth consecutive quarter with increases in fatalities as compared to the corresponding quarters in the previous years. Preliminary data reported by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) shows that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the first 9 months of 2016 increased by about 70.0 billion miles, or about a 3.0-percent increase. Also shown in Table 1 are the fatality rates per 100 million VMT, by quarter. The fatality rate for the first 9 months of 2016 increased to 1.15 fatalities per 100 million VMT, up from 1.10 fatalities per 100 million VMT in the first 9 months of 2015. The actual counts for 2015 and 2016 and the ensuing percentage changes and rates from 2015 to 2016 will be further revised as the final file for 2015 and the annual reporting file for 2016 are available next year. These estimates may be further refined when the projections for the whole of 2016 are released in late March 2017.
Fact or Fiction

Belt pretensioners are the same as lockoffs.
Fiction

They may LOOK like a lockoff but are not

8. Press the Belt Tensioning Plate down with both hands where indicated, until it locks into place. The ORANGE Locking Lever will rotate to the CLOSE position when the Plate is locked.

- If Belt Tensioning Plate does not lock, try loosening the vehicle belt slightly.

9. Grab the Base at the Belt Guides and pull from side to side and front to back to make sure it is installed correctly. The Base should not move more than 1 inch (2.5 cm) in any direction.

- If the Base moves too much, open the Belt Tensioning Plate and remove a little more slack from the vehicle belt, close Plate and recheck. After this, if the Base still moves too much, you may need to try a different vehicle seat location or installation method, or both.

10. Squeeze the Adjustment Handle on the Load Leg and extend it until the Foot makes firm contact with vehicle floor. Lock Leg into place using the first hole that will firmly lock it against the vehicle floor.

- It may be necessary to lift up slightly on the Base to allow the Foot to lock into the hole. See page 24.

11. Check that the Recline Angle remained in the appropriate range for the child’s weight. If not, remove Base, adjust recline angle and reinstall. See page 25.

- Make sure that vehicle belt buckle and hardware do not interfere with correct installation of the Base, or with the connection of the Infant Carrier to the Base.

12. Put vehicle belt in LOCKED mode, see vehicle Owner’s Manual for more information.

- In most vehicles, you can switch the shoulder belt retractor into locking mode by pulling out shoulder belt all the way and then letting it rewind into the retractor. Pull on the belt to make sure it is locking.
Must lock the belt!
Nuna Pipa

Must lock the belt!

3. Use recline adjustment, if needed, to achieve correct angle for installation
4. Recline adjustment snaps into position
5. For instructions on using the stability leg when installing the base, see stability leg section. (Page 22)
6. Route the vehicle belt through the opening in the base labeled ‘Belt Path’ and buckle the vehicle belt. Both the shoulder AND lap belt must be under the blue lock off.
7. Tighten belt while pressing base into vehicle seat.
   **8. While the shoulder belt is tight,** hook the bottom of blue lock off and press to close the lock off on the shoulder and lap belt.
   - Vehicle belts must lay flat under lock off.
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”.
Fact or Fiction

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

They can only be used for rigid anchors or mini-connectors. Not to be used with hook attachments.
Fact or Fiction

15 passenger vans require the same tire pressures as passenger vehicles.
Fiction

If tires are under inflated, they heat up and the tread separates, exposing the rim which catches on road launching the van in to a rollover.

57% of 15-passenger vans have at least one significantly under-inflated tire.
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.
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 with 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 lockoff closed so it doesn’t break - always consult the CR instructions first.
Pull the shoulder belt J tightly to remove all slack from the lap portion of the belt K, at the same time push down on the base.

Note: Route any excess vehicle belt across the belt path so it will be under the Lock-Off.

Note: If seat belt Stop Button N interferes with the Lock-Off, you may need to use a Locking Clip instead of the Lock-Off (see page 36).
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.
Fiction

At least one manufacturer requires solid core noodles.

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

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.
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.
Why is there a gap behind the Britax Next Generation convertibles when installed in a vehicle?

ANSWER:

With the addition of the integrated steel bars in the Britax Next generation convertibles, the plastic columns at the back of the traditional Britax convertibles are no longer required, which creates a small gap between the car seat and vehicle seat back when installed. We have added a second forward-facing recline position to allow the car seat to install closer to the seat back for those sensitive to this concern.

https://us.britax.com/faqs/convertible-car-seats/
When I install my forward-facing car seat there is a gap with space between the back of the car seat and the vehicle seat. Is that okay?

It is okay to have empty space between a forward-facing harnessed car seat and the vehicle seat if you have followed the car seat manufacturer’s instructions and achieved a tight installation. If you are experiencing this situation with an Evenflo car seat and want to eliminate the gap, however, try one or more of the following:

1. Remove the vehicle seat headrest, if approved by your manufacturer. Removing the headrest will often allow more of the car seat to be in contact with the vehicle seat back. Remember to properly store your headrest when it is removed. Check your vehicle owner’s manual for specific instructions.
2. Recline the vehicle seat, if approved by your manufacturer. Slightly reclining the vehicle seat back may allow more of the car seat to be in contact with the vehicle seat. Check your vehicle owner’s manual for specific instructions.
3. Use the car seat tether. If your vehicle has tether anchor hardware, you should always use a tether with a forward-facing car seat installation anyway. The tether can help improve the car seat’s performance in a crash.

http://www.evenflo.com/support/faq.html
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

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.
Thank You!

To earn a CEU, please complete the associated quiz at http://cpsboard.org/certification-recertification/