



## Technician Tips & Reminders

CPS Refresher Training

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## Seat Belt Entanglement

- Children strangled by seat belts – wrapped shoulder belt around neck – usually switchable retractors
- Usually when LATCH is used or child is riding in booster seat

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## Seat Belt Entanglement

- **Steps to Prevent:**
  - Be sure harness on child restraint is tight, so children cannot reach unused shoulder belts.
  - When LATCH is used, fasten seat belt behind CR, as long as it does not interfere with LATCH installation.
  - If buckle or LATCH attachments interfere, it is okay to unbuckle seat belt after LATCH is tightened, so belt is trapped behind CR.

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### Seat Belt Entanglement

- Be aware of adjacent seat belts:
  - Buckle belt and lock retractor
- Older children in BPB
  - Engage switchable retractor
  - Teach children not to play with seat belts
- Provide age-appropriate entertainment
- Refer to vehicle owner's manual or CR instructions (newer models)



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### Seat Belt Entanglement

- Report any entanglement cases – fatal or not
  - KidsAndCars.org



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### Car seats in Crashes

- NHTSA Policy: Replace after moderate to severe crash. Replace if:
  - Any injuries
  - Air bags deployed
  - Any obvious cracks or deformities
  - Vehicle cannot be driven from scene
  - Door nearest CR damaged

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### Car seats in Crashes

• What does the manufacturer say?

Graco 65

- If child restraint is in a crash, it must be replaced. DO NOT use it again! A crash can cause unseen damage and using it again could result in serious injury or death.

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### Car seats in Crashes

• What does the CR manufacturer say?

Combi Cocorro

- DO NOT allow any re-use of this car seat after a crash unless crash and car seat meet ALL conditions in "Re-use After a Crash" section of this manual. Do not sell or allow others to use a car seat that has been in a crash and does not comply with ALL of these conditions. Car seats are damaged in vehicle crashes and in many cases, the car seat must be destroyed and replaced. However, the NHTSA advises that if a child restraint has been used in a minor crash that the child restraint can continue to be used with your child.

For information on car seat re-use after a crash, check the NHTSA website at:

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### Car seats in Crashes

• Manufacturers may have replacement policies:

- Under certain conditions or crash situations – may want to evaluate performance
- New CR in exchange or any CR needing replacement

• Contact insurance carrier

- Many insurance companies replace seat
- Crashed seat should be destroyed

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### How long did you say he should ride rear-facing?

- Rear-facing is safer for children up to age two – AAP recommendation – not policy
- I thought it was one year....



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### Rear-facing

- Pediatrics article: “Children are five times safer riding rear facing than forward facing into the second year of life.”
- Study of crashes from 1998 to 2003, RF child restraints were rated 93 percent effective, compared to 78 percent for FW-facing



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### Recommendations for Caregivers

- Keep rear-facing as long as possible – up to highest weight/height of convertible seat
- Risk of head & spinal cord injury outweighs concern over leg injuries
- Be aware of seats with higher RF weight limits (30, 33, 35, 40 pounds)

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### Did you say 40 lbs RF?



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### Graco My-Ride 65

- Rear-facing: 5 to 40 pounds
- Forward-facing: 20 to 65 harness
- Side-impact tested, infant insert, toddler head rest, energy absorbing foam
- \$150 Walmart.com



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### Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Complete Air

- Rear-facing: 5 to 40 lbs and 19-40 inches
- Forward-facing: 22-50 lbs & 34-45 inches
- Revolutionary side impact technology
- \$249.99 Babies"R"Us



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### Middle or Outboard?

- Recent research: children from birth to age 3 in center rear have 43 percent lower risk of injury than side positions.
- Farthest away from point of impact.

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### Middle or outboard?

- Issues to consider:
  - LATCH not in middle – will need to use seat belt. Parents may want to use latch. Tilting of rear-facing child restraint.
  - No tether in middle position. Center position or tether in outboard position. Can tether hardware be installed?

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### Middle or Outboard?

- Issues to consider:
  - Which child to place in middle? Youngest or oldest?
  - Are any CRs rear-facing. Should rear-facing seats be in outboard position?
  - Do any of the CRs have side-impact protection? Should they be placed in outboard position?
  - Side air bags in vehicle

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### Middle or Outboard?

- Technician's role:
  - Discuss issues with parent
  - Parent makes decision
  - Do not make parent feel guilty for choices they made – all car seats meet federal safety standards and are safe when used correctly

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### Questions?



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