CPS Fact or Fiction

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10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Moderator for today’s session

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Fact or Fiction

Throughout today’s presentation, we will be asking a series of questions and you will be asked to respond.

The two response options will be available on the toolbar –

Green Check = Fact

Red X = Fiction
Fact or Fiction

CPS Continuing Education Presentation

What is Fact or Fiction?

• As technicians, we have to stay current in a field that is constantly changing.
• New technology requires that we continuously re-educate ourselves.
• Some changes have a big impact in our everyday CPS world.
• The latest CPS Student manual (revised January 2008) is available at www.cpsboard.org under Training.
Fact or Fiction?

- You must use 3 (or other odd number) of pool noodles. The pyramid must be taped on either side.

Fiction

- There is no specific number or arrangement for pool noodles.
- Use as few as possible to achieve appropriate recline.
- As products have more adjustable recline mechanisms (adjustment foot), noodles are less and less necessary.
Fact or Fiction?

• If you cannot get a tight installation, slip guard (a material used to keep rugs from slipping) can help tighten the installation.

CPS CEU: Fact or Fiction?

Fiction

• Slip guard does not assist in tightening the installation of a child safety seat.
• In fact, using slip guard may give a false sense of security.
• Use slip guard only when absolutely necessary to prevent excessive slipping on slick surfaces.
• Some child restraints now include some sort of anti-slip grip on the base of the seat.
Fact or Fiction?

• I don’t wear my seat belt because it is better to be thrown out of the car during a crash. The car might burn or I might drown.

Fiction

• Passenger compartments of vehicles are designed to protect you. You are four times more likely to be killed if you are thrown from the vehicle.
• Less than one half of one percent of all crashes involves fire or water.
• If the vehicle does catch on fire or go into the water, it is better to be restrained during the crash so you are more likely to be conscious, uninjured, and able to escape.
Fact or Fiction?

- Sometimes you can have an infant seat carrying handle in an upright position while using it in a car.

![Infant seats](image)

Fact

- Several rear-facing only CRs allow the handle to be in a variety of positions.
- Some rear-facing only CRs instruct that the handle is to be, or can be, left in the upright “carry” position in the vehicle
- Always carefully read the CRs instructions to confirm the allowable handle positions.

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**Example: Combi Connection LX**

**Carry Handle Operation - Carry handle has four positions (Fig. c):**

A. Vehicle use position and carrying position
B. Rocking position
C. Rocking position
D. Reclined seat position

Each handle position can be used for vehicle positions depending on size of vehicle.

To change carry handle position:
- Push in handle adjustment buttons on each side of handle ([Fig. d)]
- Rotate handle forward or backward until it locks into a use position.

**IMPORTANT:** Check to be sure carry handle is locked before lifting car seat.

**NOTE:** Handle does not lock between position C and position B. Handle will move from position C into position B without pushing in handle adjustment buttons.
Fact or Fiction?

- Children with special needs always require special seats.

Fiction

- Often a conventional CR will provide optimal protection.
- Several forward facing seats have harnesses to higher weight limits.
- For a list of higher weight Child Restraints, review the AAP’s Car Safety Seats: A Guide for Families 2008 (www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm)
Fact or Fiction?

- Vehicle LATCH certification tests are static, not dynamic (not crash tests).

Fact

- Some of the LATCH certification tests are pull tests.
- Vehicle manufacturers are not required to perform a dynamic (sled type) test.
Fact or Fiction?

• For a tight fit, the child seat can move not more than 1 inch from side to side or front to back when tested at the belt path.

Fact

• According to the NHTSA CPS curriculum, there is no need to install the child seat so tightly that it cannot move.
• The restraint can move up to 1 inch at the belt path.
• The snug installation should be checked before every ride.
Fact or Fiction?

- If a locking latchplate doesn’t hold a child restraint installed with a lap-shoulder belt secure, use a locking clip.

Fiction

- FLIP: First tighten the belt, unbuckle, flip the latchplate 180 degrees and rebuckle.
- TWIST: If that does not work, try twisting the buckle webbing, up to 3 complete rotations, to shorten it.
- The final solution should be a correctly used locking clip.
- The reference is in the NHTSA Student Manual pages 72 and 239 (available at www.cpsboard.org)
Fact or Fiction?

• It is fine to install a CR in the center seating position using the LATCH anchors from the outboard positions.

Fiction

• Unless specifically approved by both the vehicle manufacturer and the child restraint manufacturer, you can’t use the two inboard lower anchors.
• Use only lower anchors that have been designated as such.
Fact or Fiction?

- It is never safe to use aftermarket (non-regulated) devices.

Fiction

- Some CR Manufacturers make and test products that are for use with their child seats, but are sold separately from the child restraint.
- If it is approved by the manufacturer, it is okay to use with the restraint.
- When assessing non-regulated products, consider:
  - Does it interfere with harness fit or seat belt snugness?
  - Look critically at the product and how it interacts with the restraint and the child.
Fact or Fiction?

- It is okay to place the locking clip anywhere on the seatbelt as long as it is between the latchplate and the retractor.

Fiction

- Unless instructed otherwise, place the locking clip about 1 inch from the buckle.
- If the locking clip binds against the lip of the frame or shell of the CR and it cannot be moved closer to the latch plate, move the clip just far enough away from the latch plate so that it rests just inside the frame or shell.
- The lap-shoulder belt must be a continuous loop with sliding latchplate system.
Fact or Fiction?

- You can only use a top tether when using the lower anchors.

Fiction

- Top tethers should be used with all forward facing child restraints when a top tether anchor is available in the vehicle.
- Tethers reduce forward head movement and adds stability - use them!
- A tether should be used with a seat belt or as part of the LATCH system.
- A tether provides a third point of attachment to the vehicle, which spreads the load to more anchors.
- Some rear facing child restraints allow the use of a top tether - refer to the child restraint instructions to see if this is allowed.
Fact or Fiction?

• There is no safety difference between using lower anchors or the seat belt provided they are used correctly.

Fact

• The only additional safety of LATCH is the required use of a top tether forward facing seats.
• There is no demonstrated crash performance improvement between a child restraint restrained with the seat belt versus LATCH.
  – This is true for both rear facing child restraints and forward facing child restraints installed using the top tether.
Fact or Fiction?

- The more expensive the seat, the safer it is.

Fiction

- As long as it meets FMVSS 213, it is good to use.
Fact or Fiction?

• All infant seats can be installed without the base.

Fiction

• Several infant only seats require the use of the base to secure the restraint in the vehicle.
• Always read the manufacturers instructions to see if the base is required.
Fact or Fiction?

- You must always use the top harness slot in a forward facing seat.

Fiction

- The slots have to be approved by the manufacturer for use forward facing.
- Check the manual.
- The slots on combination seats are all appropriate for use FF.
Fact or Fiction?

• You can always use a pool noodle or rolled towel when using an adjustable base (adjustable foot) to install an infant seat.

Fiction

• Some manufacturers allow a noodle(s) in addition to the adjustable foot to attain a correct angle.
• Others require using one or the other, not both.
• Rule of thumb: Use either the adjustment foot OR noodles, but not both.
Fact or Fiction?

• Part of NHTSA’s compliance testing of child restraints includes a side impact test.

Fiction

• It is not currently part of NHTSA required testing.
• Many CR manufacturers voluntarily test products using Australian or European standards, which include side impact tests.
Fact or Fiction?

• LATCH can never be used with a Belt Positioning Booster.

Fiction

• There are some combination seats that allow the use of the top tether when used in booster mode.
• There are some booster seats that allow the use of the lower anchors.
• Always read the manufacturer’s instructions.
• New design changes may be different but safe.
Fact or Fiction?

- If a CR does not accommodate the child’s needs according to manufacturer’s instructions, start by using a different CR.

Fiction

- If the restraint does not meet the needs of the child, first consult the restraint manufacturer for possible solutions.
- If they have no acceptable solutions, then consider exchanging or replacing the seat.
- Do not make changes to a restraint to force a good fit.
Fact or Fiction?

• NHTSA will issue a recall for a CRS when there are between 15 to 20 complaints regarding a specific seat.

Fiction

• NHTSA does not have a specific number of complaints before a compliance check for a potential recall is conducted.
• Any technician who notices problems in the field should encourage the parent/caregiver to contact the manufacturer and NHTSA hotline.
• Although it is their responsibility to report defects, technicians are welcome to contact the manufacturer with observations from the field that may not necessarily be a defect.
Fact or Fiction?

- When a consumer registers their car seat with a manufacturer, the consumer will receive unsolicited bulk e-mail or junk mail.

Fiction

- CR manufacturer’s will contact the subscriber when there is a voluntary or required recall.
- They do not share their subscriber list with other companies.
Fact or Fiction?

• A locking clip is always used as a back up to a CRS that has a built in lock-off.

Fiction

• It is not necessary, or generally recommended, to use a locking clip in addition to a lock-off.
• Review the CR’s instructions for specific information.
• Manufacturers developed lock-offs to make pre-crashing locking easier for caregivers.
Fact or Fiction?

• If there are multiple lock-offs always use the one nearest the latchplate just like a locking clip.

Fiction

• It depends on the seat.
• On convertible seats, generally the lock-off closest to the retractor should be used.
• Some seats require both lock-offs be used.
• This may change for a design during research, development and testing process.
• Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions with all CR types.

Example: Britax Roundabout
Fact or Fiction?

- Harness straps or an adjuster strap can be used to lift or carry a car seat.

Fiction

- It depends -- Check the instructions of the manufacturer.
- Example: Britax is very specific in their general warnings that state “Never use the harness or adjuster strap to lift or carry this child seat. Doing so could damage the harness adjuster and webbing. Always carry this child seat by the shell or tether straps.”
Think critically

- Technology changes almost every day.
- There is a lot of gray areas with few absolutes.
- When in doubt, always go to the manufacturer first.

Take the Quiz:

http://www.cpsboard.org/ceus_quiz3.htm#quiz