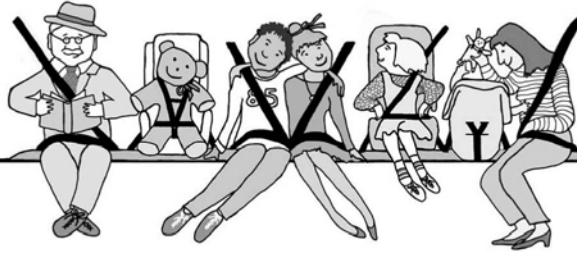


SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 27, No. 1



January 2006

What to Do About LATCH?

There are two issues that arise in relation to the lower anchors and top tethers which affect best practice continually. First, parents are confused by the contradictory recommendations of placing children in the center vs. the rules about not using LATCH anchors from the center. They thus tend to make the former choice over the latter. Many never ask for technical opinions, and if they do, often don't understand why achieving a tight fit using the inner bars is wrong.

Having LATCH as a child-friendly vehicle component offers additional possibilities. As one Canadian research team suggested, if LATCH anchors were placed inboard of both side locations, children would be farther from side impacts. Families still could use all 3 locations when necessary, employing the safety belt systems, their current choice if they want to use the center. Also the difference in location would likely permit use of the tether anchors since it is permissible to have the tether straps up to 20 degrees to the side of the safety seat centerline.

The second big question regarding LATCH is whether or not one can use the safety belt concurrently with the LATCH connectors. To date, the idea of using LATCH to achieve tight fit easily and using the belt as a backup in case the parent over-reaches by putting in a seat that is beyond the current weight limit of the anchors has been rejected

by safety seat designers because it has not been tested. Nevertheless, many parents do it because they can't see the harm.

A related issue, posed by the regulatory language on phasing out belt systems that have a manual-locking feature, has become even more impractical when one looks at the current crop of safety seats. More products with full harness systems are on the market for the child who weighs more than 40 lbs. Current LATCH anchor specifications demand use of the safety belt at 48 lbs. so all of the products that are designed for children up to 65 or even 80 lbs. need an easily locked safety belt.

Another important reason for continuing this system is the booster child. After 4 years of riding in a snugly fastened harness system, preschoolers often are not ready to manage an emergency locking safety belt. They need the reminder to sit up and keep the belt snug created by switching the retractor into the manually-locked mode. Video of children in safety belts, showing how they wiggle out of position, even though never removing the belt itself, shows how important a locked safety belt is for our young travelers. LATCH issues will continue to arise. Perhaps vehicle designers and government representatives can consider new ways to adapt to the realities of parental behavior while still meeting regulations. LET'S TALK!

CURRENT MEMBERS!

***Would you like to view SafetyBeltSafe News via the Web?
Let us know at stombrello@carseat.org.***

THANK YOU

\$15,000 Anonymous (see p. 4)

\$10,000 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

\$3,000 American Honda Motors

\$1,000 Lori Jacobs & Terry Hinricher

\$250 Samantha Merton

\$200:

John Calciana

Childrens Hospital/Los Angeles

Little Company of Mary Hospital

Oakwood Healthcare System

SAFE KIDS Frederick County

Scottsdale Healthcare

Becky Thams

\$150: Safe Ride News Publications

\$125:

Aliso Viejo Police Services

Amador County Health Dept

Babysafe of Fresno

Alisa Baer

Deborah Baer, RNC

Bayard Ambulance

Diane Benson, RN

CCRN

Central Baptist Hospital

Central Nebraska Community Services

Clarkstown Police Dept

Collision Analysis Ltd

Vera Fullaway

Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Inst.

James Griffin, Jr, Sgt.

Debe Harman

Humboldt County Public Health

Jacobsen's Drive Training Center

Norm Kellems

Kenosha County Div of Health

Kentucky Transportation

Cabinet/Driver Safety

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Kosair Children's Hospital

Langlade County Health Department/

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Maine Emergency Nurses Assn

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New York State DMV-Governor's

Traffic Safety Committee

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PeaceHealth Medical Group

Karen Proctor, CPNP

Darren Qunell

Ristal Engineering

SAFE KIDS Coalition Greater

Knoxville

SAFE KIDS Lakeshore

SAFE KIDS of Columbus

SAFE KIDS, Packard Children's

Hospital

Safety Council, La Capital Area

Margaret Sirtak

The Queen's Medical Center

UAMS, Center for Health

Promotion

UAMS, Safe from the Start

Ventura County Fire Dept

Wonder Years Babyproofing

\$100:

Dorothy Carle

Susan Corl, MSW

Faith Regional Health Services

Karen Fond, CPNP

Linda Galer

Charlene Galston

J. Michele Laberge

Barbara Leach (honoring Gladys

White)

Brian & Renee Mann (honoring

Michael Sachs, MD)

Vanessa Merton, Esq

Norman Police Dept

North Dakota Health Department

Passenger Safety Services

Safely On The Move

Drs Sue & William Tully

CALENDAR

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT WEEK

APRIL 16 - 22

SAFETY SEAT CHECKUP WEEK

APRIL 23 - 29

CONFERENCES

*2/16: For Californians: SBS USA

Technical Teleconference, 9:55

am-11:35 am. Sponsored by CA

OTS & CA DHS, Call SBS USA

for telephone number and code.

Visit the SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

booth at both these conferences:

*4/9-11: Lifesavers, Austin, TX

Call 703/922-7944, or log on to

www.lifesaversconference.org.

*8/9-11: Kidz in Motion, Orlando,

FL. E-mail kimconf@hiwaay.net or

log on to www.kidzinmotion.org.

SAFETY SEAT CHECKUP DAY

(Checkers needed 9 am - 3 pm)

*4/29: Petersen Automotive

Museum, Los Angeles, CA.

10 am - 2 pm. Call 310/222-6860.

Press Release Available

SBS USA kicked off the New Year with a press release covering our 3 main messages for 2006. The brief summary describes 3 ways to increase protection for children.

1.) Keep children rear facing until 18-24 months, now that all convertible safety seats are certified rear facing up to at least 30 lbs. 2.) Review the 5-Step Test to assess the need for boosters. 3.) Keep kids in the back until age 15 when they begin learning to drive.

By giving families goals, we hope to delay the rush to forward-facing, belts only, and front seat travel which often occurs for lack of education. Ask your local paper or newsletter to include this release (available at www.carseat.org) in an upcoming issue.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Kellie L. Mzik

You can help SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. save children's lives with your membership or donation.

GROUP SUBSCRIPTION:	\$500 Major Corp.	\$200 Hospital	\$100 Small Bus./Prof Grp	\$50 Community Org.
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* E-mail address is required to receive passwords for access to Recall List and CPS Tech Update.

All memberships/subscriptions are for calendar year and include *SafetyBeltSafe News*.

\$200 or more automatically includes *Safe Ride News*.

Check below if you want to receive the following special subscriptions:

\$50 minimum: ___ Recall Update Service by e-mail ___ Recall Update Service by regular mail (if necessary)

\$100 minimum: ___ CPS Tech Update (online access to new instructions since September, 2005)

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Name on Card _____ Signature _____ Exp ____/____

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Federal Tax ID #95-3676040

New Products

Sunshine Kids Radian is a convertible seat for 5 to 33 pounds rear facing and up to 65 pounds forward facing. The 5-point harness has 5 sets of shoulder slots and 3 crotch strap locations. The V-shaped tether strap can be used when the seat faces rearward or forward. It has a steel alloy frame and can be folded for storage.

Graco Infant Safe Seat is a rear-facing seat for 5 to 30 pounds, which may encourage parents to keep their children rear facing longer. The 5-point harness has a front adjuster strap. It has a detachable base, a vehicle belt lock-off, and a dial on the back to adjust the angle. **Graco Toddler Safe Seat** is a forward-facing seat for children 20 to 40 pounds. It has a 5-point harness with three sets of shoulder slots and a front adjuster strap. The angle may be changed to any of five recline positions while the seat is installed with the child in it.

Recaro has introduced the **Young Sport**, a combination seat with an adjustable headrest. It can be used with the harness for 18-40 pounds or as a booster for 30 to 80 pounds. The seat can be reclined with knobs on the sides. The **Young Style** is a highback, belt-positioning booster with adjustable headrest for 30 to 80 pounds.

iGive. . . Will You?

iGive is an online shopping mall which allows those who support a cause to have a portion of online purchase dollars automatically given to a non-profit agency. As part of diversified efforts to underwrite SBS USA programs, we are Cause #2039 at www.iGive.com. One supporter is generating interest by e-mailing her network of relatives and friends, encouraging them to make their shopping count at iGive.

This is a great time to join! Through 2/28/06, each new iGive member who shops within 45 days will earn an extra \$5 for SBS USA on top of the standard donations from shopping (up to 26% of each purchase!). Over 600 of your favorite brand name stores are now at the iGive.com "mall."

Remember, also, that two California banks have programs that benefit SBS USA. Just mention SBS USA when opening an account at either **Commercial Capital Bank** or **Fremont Investment and Loan**, and your deposits will count toward the total on which these community-oriented banks base their annual donations to SBS USA. No one at SBS USA knows anything about your personal banking information, including that you hold an account, as the banks handle the entire transaction.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.
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*New Year's Resolution:
Keep Your Membership Updated!*

SafetyBeltSafe News

January 2006

Safety Seat Checkup Week April 23-29

A SPECIAL GIFT and A CHALLENGE

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. has renewed sponsorship of our annual Safety Seat Checkup Week to focus on the critical importance for children of riding properly in vehicles. **Petersen Automotive Museum** has offered its site for the April 29th Safety Seat Checkup Day event from 10 am to 2 pm in the main parking lot. In the Petersen main lobby, visitors will find the unique exhibit, created by SBS USA, on the history of safety seat development.

The SBS USA Board of Directors is finalizing plans and invites volunteers to participate in a variety of capacities. Training opportunities will be set, and volunteers to help manage traffic and assist families are welcomed as well. This is an excellent way for Technicians who plan to re-certify to complete the hands-on component. We look forward to a good turn out of checkers so mark your calendar today!

Sample proclamations are available for everyone to reach out to city, county or state government leaders, asking them to proclaim the Week. Posters will be available, both with and without the 4/29 event, so that those outside the Los Angeles area can buoy interest. Watch the Calendar section of www.carseat.org for flyers.

The **Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County** is leading Special Enforcement Week efforts, April 16-22, during which they will stress watching for any CPS violations. Ask your local law enforcement agency to join in to reduce risk of deaths and injuries for kids.

A volunteer who wishes to remain anonymous has made an unexpected gift of \$15,000 to SBS USA with the idea of challenging others, such as corporations and funding entities, to consider increasing their support for SBS USA initiatives. Our benefactor is encouraging everyone to reach out more widely with the child passenger safety (CPS) message.

After the initial stunned reaction by staff, enthusiasm for getting the 5-Step Test into the hands of every student K through 3rd grade seemed the natural goal. Boosters are an easy, inexpensive way to reduce crash-related injuries to elementary school children. The Test has proved itself easy for both kids and parents to comprehend and apply. While weight and height require measuring implements, the 5-Step Test can be applied in any vehicle quickly.

"Boosters Are For Big Kids" is available now—a single kit can be used to inform volunteers at a school not only how to do the Test but also the basics of its importance. Not only will more kids start riding safely, but as a by-product, more adults will learn not to place shoulder belts under their arms or behind their backs, too! See the components of the kit at www.carseat.org.

Will *you* accept the challenge? Call or e-mail us to help extend this message into your community, either through schools or by adding a 5-Step Test Event to a community gathering. How many copies of the 5-Step Test flyer can you get into the hands of families with children? Can you approach the PTA at your local school? Let's match this generous gift with a strong push for protecting children across the country *now*.