Cradle Boards Don't Work as Car Seats

- Cradle boards were used to protect our children in our earliest forms of transportation.
- Many families still use cradleboards today as beds and as carriers for their infants.
- Today, we primarily use motorized vehicles for transportation. While cradle boards still have lasting value in our community, using cradle boards to transport children in motor vehicles is not safe.
- The results of crash tests have shown that cradleboards are not strong enough to protect children in accidents.
- These same tests have shown that child safety seats are strong enough to keep infants safe.
- Keep our children safe by always using a child safety restraint that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards to transport children.



Forward Facing Child Restraints

Choose the safety seat that is right for the toddler's weight, height, physical development and behavioral needs.

When securing the toddler:

- Place the toddler's bottom and back flat against the back of the safety seat. The child's ears should not be over the top of the safety seat.
- Put the harness straps at or above the shoulders and buckle at the crotch.
- · Tighten the harness straps snugly.
- · Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.



Belt Positioning Booster Seats

Booster seats are for children who outgrow their forward-facing safety seat. They raise the child up so that the seat belt fits correctly. The seat belt should come across the child's hips and the shoulders, not the belly or neck. All boosters must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.

Children should stay in a booster until they can pass:

The 5-Step Test:

- Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
- 2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
- 3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
- 4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
- 5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?



Grandparents Guide to Car Seats

Buckling Up Your Precious Grandchildren

All grandparents want the best for their grandchildren. Many grandparents today spend lots of time caring for grandchildren. Learning to use today's car seats correctly is part of being a 21st century grandparent.

If you take care of your grandchildren regularly, consider buying your own car seats.



- There is not just one "best" car seat.
- More expensive car seats are not always safer:
 All must pass the same strict crash tests.
- Choose a car seat that fits the child's age and weight, that can be installed tightly in your car(s), and that is easy for you to install and use correctly.

Car crashes are the leading cause of death and been proven to prevent or reduce serious injury in all but the most severe crashes. While driving, using a car seat correctly is the best way to protect your grandchildren and correctly buckling up children may also help to minimize distraction.

Find Out About Your Child Safety Restraints

These labels are important to be aware of, whether your seat is new or second hand. Also, follow the manufacturer's instructions in the vehicle owner's guide and the child restraint manual.













Ask a certified CPS Technician if you have any questions about your child safety seat.





