

Airline Travel with Children: Choices About Safety




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Objectives

- Discuss current FAA regulations
- Discuss current parent options
- Identify airline CRS seating positions
- Discuss alternatives to using a CRS
- Discuss FAA Disclosure of Airline Seat Dimensions
- Resource handouts for caregivers

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Booking the Flight

- Keep in mind
 - Inquire about less crowded flights
 - For a child with special needs-check the box "Special Services"
 - Book travel for am flights
 - Questions? Call the airline for their policies
 - If you buy a seat for your child, see if the airline offers a discount.
 - Let the kids know what to expect
 - Allow extra time to pre-board
 - Does the airport have a "play area"?

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Booking the Flight

- Allow time for bathroom breaks
- Bring their favorite snacks
- Bring favorite toy or book
- Keep ears from hurting
- Check as many bags as possible
- Do I need a car seat?



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Airline Policies : Infants (under 2 years)

- We (American) accept infants as young as 2 days old. However, if you're traveling with an infant less than 7 days old, your physician will be required to fill out a passenger medical form before your flight. (A special assistance coordinator will send the form directly to your physician.) Infants must be accompanied by a person 16 years or older or by the infant's parent (any age) in the same cabin.
- Changing tables are available in the lavatories of all wide-body aircraft.
- Bassinets are available on a first come, first serve basis at the gate for travel only on 777-200, 767-300 and 777-300 aircraft.

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Airline Policies

- Seating options for infants:
 - Held by an adult (lap child): A parent or any person 16 years or older may hold the infant in their lap, the infant must be included in the reservation by calling American Airlines reservations. International taxes and percentage of adult fare may apply.
 - In a reserved seat: If your infant will travel in his or her own seat, you must buy a ticket and bring a safety seat approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

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Airline Policy based on Newman Study

- The number of deaths that could be prevented with mandatory CRS is less than 1 per year
- The number of deaths of unrestrained young children in survivable aircraft crashes are low
- If CRS required, would increase motor vehicle crash deaths

Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine 2003;157: 969-974.

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Alternative Approach

- Encourage families to inquire about the availability of open seats on less crowded flights to reduce cost to family and no revenue loss to the airline or
- Gate check the CRS as luggage
- Airlines have adopted policies that do not count CRS toward checked baggage

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Message from Traffic Safety Board



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Preparation of Child



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHJlN5lZCjM>

TSA Requirements

Hey Kids!

Good news! If you're 12 and under make sure to tighten your shoes because you can keep your shoes on during security.

Parents, scan the code to learn more.

Your safety is our priority

www.faa.gov

TSA Requirements

- All carry-on baggage, including children's toys, bags and items, will be screened through the machine and then will be returned to them.
- All child-related equipment including: strollers, umbrella-strollers, baby carriers, car and booster seats, backpacks, and baby slings.
- If possible, collapse or fold strollers and any other child-related equipment

10 Best Kid-Friendly Airports

<http://www.familyvacationcritic.com/10-best-kid-friendly-airports/art/>

Children's circular treadmill by making little hands on the poster.

Keep Your Little One Safe When You Fly

LEARN MORE

Child Safety

www.faa.gov/childsafety

FAA

http://www.faa.gov/passengers/fly_children/

Choices About Safety

- The FAA encourages parents to secure their child in a Child Restraint System when flying, just as they do when traveling in a car.
 - The only sure way to provide safety during turbulence or an emergency
 - Use is currently the parent's option

Choices About Safety

- AAP and FAA recommend CSS for children under 40 pounds
- Choose CSS that has FAA approval (Booster seats not allowed but may be carry-ons)
- CARES (Child Aviation Restraint System)



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FAA: Use of Child Restraint Systems on Aircraft

- Regulations
 - No aircraft operator may permit a child to use a booster-type, vest-type, harness-type, or lap-held CRS during takeoff, landing, and movement on the surface, except if CRS is an ACSD
 - No certificate holder may prohibit a child from using an approved CRS when parent/guardian purchases a ticket-14CFR & 121.311

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FAA: Use of Child Restraint Systems on Aircraft

- If a CRS does not fit, the aircraft operator must accommodate the CRS in another seat in the same class of service
 - CRS with base too wide in seat with rigid armrests can be moved to seat with moveable armrests
 - An aft-facing CRS without enough distance between seats can be moved to a bulkhead seat or seat with additional pitch
- Aircraft operator can use discretion in finding different seating location

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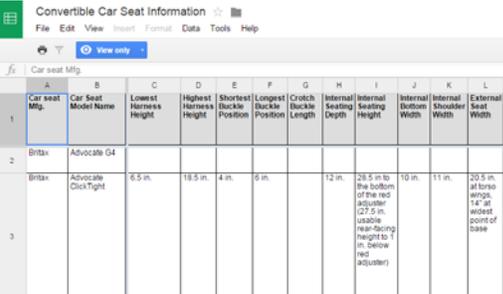
Can I put my CRS anywhere on the plane?



- Some car seats will not fit in the "bulkhead row"
- Last row of the plane generally will not have seats that recline
- Child restraints CANNOT be used in exit rows and usually not in rows for and aft of exit rows.
- Car safety seats must be in window seat or seat that allows egress

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Seat Width



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Car seat Mfg.	Car Seat Model Name	Lowest Harness Height	Highest Harness Height	Shortest Buckle Position	Longest Buckle Position	Crotch Buckle Length	Internal Seating Depth	Internal Seating Height	Internal Bottom Width	Internal Shoulder Width	External Seat Width
1	Britax Advocate G4										
2	Britax Advocate ClickTight	6.5 in.	18.5 in.	4 in.	6 in.		12 in.	28.5 in to the bottom of the red adjuster (27.5 in. usable rear-facing height to 7 in. below red adjuster)	10 in.	11 in.	20.5 in. at torso wings, 14" at widest point of base

<https://sites.google.com/site/carseatmeasurements/home>

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Disclosure of Seat Dimensions to Facilitate Use of Child Safety Seats on Airplanes

- Air carriers will be required to post on their Web sites information regarding aircraft seat dimensions.
- Each air carrier will make available on its Web site the width of both the narrowest and widest passenger seats in each class of service, for each airplane make, model, and series used in passenger-carrying operations under part 121.
- This rule is effective October 30, 2015. Compliance with this rule is required February 29, 2016.

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Aircraft Seat Information

American Airlines Aircraft Seat Information

Seat width between armrests in inches
Seat recline in degrees

Aircraft	First	Business	Main Cabin Extra	Main Cabin
Boeing 777-300ER				
Manufacturer	Zodiac Seats UK	Zodiac Seats France	Zodiac Seats US	Zodiac Seats US
Pitch	63"	43"	36"	31/32"
Recline	Fully lie-flat	Fully lie-flat	6"	6"
Width	20 8"/20 5"	21"/29 3"	18"	17"
Stake Width	48"	48"	N/A	N/A
Bed Length	82"	75 7"-77 5"	N/A	N/A

Lap-Held Children



APPARENT WEIGHT OF A LAP-HELD INFANT

It's not only the weight of the child but that of your own arms and hands that you are fighting to hold back.

Turbulence, Sudden Stops, and Emergency Landings



- It is unlikely that the parent would be able to hold on to their child.
- Unrestrained children also pose a hazard to other passengers
- Parents may end up using that child as a "human air bag"

Lap-Held Children

- Restraint with a supplemental loop belt (belly belt) is allowed by some countries but not the U.S. on take-off or landing
- It can help restrain a child during turbulence, but provides no protection during crash situations



You may also see...



Not Approved!



Airline Bassinet



- Measures approximately 29.5 inches (74.93cm) long by 13 inches (33.02cm) wide by 6.5 inches (16.51cm) deep.
- There is a weight limit of 24 lbs.11 kg.

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Car seat alternative: CARES



- FAA approved harness – type restraint
- Use for weight 22-44 pounds and 40 inches tall
- FAA approved in accordance with 14CFR21(d), approved for aircraft use only
- Follow manufacturer's instructions
- Practice harness with child before trip

Lapbelt vs CARES



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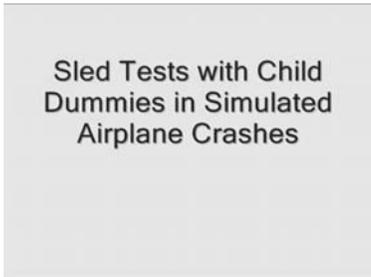
Seat Belt-Restrained Children

- Children over 2 years of age must have their own seat.
- Using only the seat belt is permitted.



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Simulated Airplane Crashes



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Inversion Test

- Two tests
 - Rotated forward until upside down
 - Rotates sideways until upside down



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FAA Approved

This Child Restraint System meets the standards for use in aircraft as recommended by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia and the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand.

Only to be used on aircraft with the permission of the aircraft operator, pilot and crew.

SUITABLE FOR FORWARD OR REAR FACING USE*

The top tether strap is not required to be used onboard aircraft and should be stowed securely.

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INSTALLATION IN AIRCRAFT

This Child Restraint is certified for use in commercial aircraft. Be sure to contact your airline prior to travel, to discuss their Child Restraint policy.

- ① Position Carrier near facing in aircraft seat, with child properly secured in Carrier.
- ② Move Carrier Seat Pad to expose Belt Guides.
- ③ Route Aircraft Lap Belt under both Belt Guides, and fasten the aircraft belt.
- ④ Tighten Aircraft Lap Belt while pushing Carrier firmly into aircraft seat.
A tightly rolled airline blanket may be used under the front edge of the Carrier if needed for stable, secure installation.
- ⑤ Check Installation:
① Level Line on Carrier MUST

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Portable Electronic Devices

6 Unfasten SensorSafe Chest Clip

As a final step, unfasten the chest clip (p. 35).
In order to comply with the FAA regulation for Portable Electronic Devices (PED), the SensorSafe Chest Clip **MUST** be unfastened before take-off.

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Installation Tips

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Forward facing Installation Tip

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AMSAFE Aircraft Inflatable Seat Belt

- Deploys an air bag within milliseconds of detecting a 16 G-force impact.
- Found in private jets and commercial airlines
 - Bulk head seats
 - Exit row seats



Cessna Stationair website

5 /2011 p. 43

Aircraft Seat Belt Warnings

- Inflatable seat belts are deactivated when the seat belt is unbuckled, or:
 - When the seat occupant uses a seat belt extender or
 - When a seat belt extender is used in conjunction with a child safety seat
- The manufacturer of the inflatable seat belt **does not recommend allowing lap-held children with any type of restraint system.**



FAA: INFO 11006, Inflatable Seat Belts: 2/28/11

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Car Seats Gate-Checked or Checked as Luggage



Car seats are designed to withstand most motor vehicle crash forces. In general, the MACPS does not consider a gate-checked car seat or a car seat that is checked as luggage to be one that has experienced forces equivalent to a motor vehicle crash. Once the destination is reached, it is recommended to inspect the car seat to make sure no visual damage has occurred and all aspects of the car seat function properly.

MACPS: Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety
(August 2012)

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Do you think airline attendants would make good CPS Techs?



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Safer Airplane Travel With Babies and Young Children

Child Safety Facts 2016

Why buckle up your child in an airplane?

- A child riding on your lap would be torn from your arms in a crash or in rough air! Rough air (turbulence) is common and can happen without warning. It can cause serious injuries to people not buckled up.
- Many crashes in large or small planes are survivable. Buckling up helps you and your child avoid injury so you both can escape (page 2).
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics urge parents to buckle up all children in flight.
- Child safety devices (car seats and special FAA-tested devices) are made to hold a child securely in a crash or turbulence.
- You and your child are likely to have a happier flight if the child is in a familiar, comfortable car seat.
- The car seat you use on board will be ready to use at the end of the flight. A car seat that is checked could be lost or damaged.



You and your baby deserve the best possible protection! The FAA recommends that all passengers fly buckled up at all times.

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Play it safe when flying with your child.

Parents go to great lengths to keep their children safe at home and on the road. But what about in the air? When you're traveling by airplane, an approved child restraint device (CRD) is the only way to keep your child safe from serious injury or death in the event of an emergency.

Suffocation is an immediate risk to infants and young children who are not properly restrained. Children who are not properly restrained can become airborne in the event of an emergency. Children who are not properly restrained can become airborne in the event of an emergency.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) strongly urges parents to buckle their child in an approved child restraint device on all flights. Children can buckle with their car seats on board only if the child is under 2 years old, under 40 pounds, and under 48 inches tall. The FAA also strongly urges parents to use FAA-approved child restraint seats on all flights. Children can buckle with their car seats on board only if the child is under 2 years old, under 40 pounds, and under 48 inches tall. The FAA also strongly urges parents to use FAA-approved child restraint seats on all flights.

Childproof your flight.



TURBULENCE happens.

Childproof your flight.

FAA.gov

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Make sure you're cleared for take-off.

- ✓ Make sure you get a government-issued photo ID. The TSA will check your ID before allowing you to board. If you don't have one, you may be able to use a driver's license or a state-issued ID card.
- ✓ Reserve for yourself a seat on the plane. It's a good idea to book a window seat so you can watch the take-off and landing.
- ✓ If you're flying with a child who is 2 years old or younger, you'll need to check in with the airline and get a special boarding pass for your child. The only way for your child to get on the plane is through TSA.
- ✓ Reserve airplane seats. At TSA, you'll be asked to reserve seats for all children 2 years old and younger. It's important to do this as early as possible to ensure you have the seats you need for your trip.
- ✓ If you're flying with a child who is 2 years old or younger, you'll need to check in with the airline and get a special boarding pass for your child. The only way for your child to get on the plane is through TSA.

Keep your little one safe when you're in the air.

- ✓ Ask your airline if there are special rules for flying with children. Call your airline at least 72 hours before the flight to get the most up-to-date information.
- ✓ If you're flying with a child who is 2 years old or younger, you'll need to check in with the airline and get a special boarding pass for your child. The only way for your child to get on the plane is through TSA.

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Resources

- TSA Traveling with Children-<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/traveling-children>
- TSA site on Rights of Traveling with Special Needs www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/children-disabilities 1-855-987-2227
- SRN "Children in Aircraft"
- Technical Report—Child Passenger Safety PEDIATRICS Volume 127, Number 4, April 2011
- FAA Advisory Circular AC 120-87B (9/17/10)
- FAA Flying with Children
- How to Keep Baby Calm on a Flight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nR91ph4HVSQ>

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Have a good trip

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Any questions?

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