

## Safe Kids Maryland Provides Car Seat Advice to Public

Safe Kids Maryland and Babies R Us joined together on September 9, 2017, to promote Baby Safety Month. Along with Child Passenger Safety Technician Liz Laubach from Maryland Kids in Safety Seats, Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, MIEMSS Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection Health Care project manager, was on hand at the Pasadena store location to answer questions from the public about car seats and help caregivers find the right seat for their children based on age, height, and weight.

Many caregivers who stopped by the display asked how long a specific car seat will work for a particular child. This is an important question to ask, as many children outgrow their seats by height long before they reach the weight limits of the seat. The child passenger safety representatives also showed caregivers how to install an infant carrier-type seat in their vehicles without using the base, noting how this skill is useful for taxis or grandparents' cars.

For more information about car seat safety or to find seat check locations, contact Maryland Kids in Safety Seats at 800-370-SEAT or [www.mdkiss.org](http://www.mdkiss.org).



Liz Laubach from Maryland Kids in Safety Seats at the Babies R Us in Pasadena, Maryland, on September 9, 2017. Photo courtesy of Susanne Ogaitis-Jones.

## New Research on Car Seat Tethers Released

The latest research report by Safe Kids Worldwide, *Car Seats and Tethers: Essential for Safety but Consistently Overlooked*, found that many car seats are not used properly because of one misunderstood but essential step in installation: attaching the top tether. In collaboration with Chevrolet, Safe Kids Worldwide is working to educate families and caregivers about using a tether when installing their forward-facing car seat with a harness. To access the full report, click <http://bit.ly/2eYx1uj>.

This study found that 64% of parents who should be using the tether to secure their child's car seat were not. The tether is a critical element, and without it the sudden forward motion in a crash can result in a child's head hitting the back of the front seat, other occupants, or even the console, causing serious harm.

Throughout the month of September, more than 200 Safe Kids Worldwide coalitions hosted car seat checkup events designed to assist families with properly installing their child's car seat. During these events, certified child passenger safety technicians work one-on-one with parents and caregivers to check car seats for proper installation and answer questions. Expert help is also available through the online Ultimate Car Seat Guide, [www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide](http://www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide), available in English and Spanish, which offers practical advice on how to choose and use a car seat.

*This article was adapted from a report released to the health care community by Safe Kids Worldwide.*

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### Tethers Make a Difference

#### What's a tether?



It's the **strap with a hook** hanging on the back, at the top of your child's car seat.

When attached and tightened to one of the vehicle's tether **anchors**, a tether helps keep a forward-facing car seat from tipping forward.

#### Car Crash Using a Tether



#### Is it necessary?

**Yes!** A forward-facing car seat secured only at the bottom may tip dangerously forward in a crash, which can result in the child's head hitting the back of the front seat, other occupants or even the console, causing serious harm. **Using the tether could be the difference between a brain injury or no injury at all.**

#### Car Crash Not Using a Tether



#### How do you use a tether?

Find the tether anchor then attach the hook on the tether strap to it and tighten. Depending on the type of vehicle you have, the tether anchor will likely be found one of three places.



Check your vehicle owner's manual to find your **tether anchors**. Look for this symbol.



#### Most Common Tether Anchor Locations



#### Did you know?

In our study, 64% of parents were **not** using the tether on a forward-facing seat.



**Now you know –** Look for the tether anchor symbol. Hook and tighten the tether on it. Safe travels!

