

hook, buckle, strap, or other connector that attaches to the anchorage. Seat belts will no longer be used to anchor child safety seats to newer vehicles. After fall 2002, all new cars were required to have the entire LATCH system.

## Family-Centered Care

### Using Car Safety Restraints

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- Read manufacturer's directions and follow them exactly.
  - Provide favorite toy, stuffed animal, or snack for child while in car seat.
  - Anchor car safety seat securely to car's anchoring system and apply harness snugly to child.\*
  - Do not start the car until everyone is properly restrained.
  - Always use the restraint even for short trips.
  - If child begins to climb out or undo the harness, firmly say, "No." It may be necessary to stop the car to reinforce the expected behavior. Use rewards, such as stars or stickers, to encourage cooperation.
  - Encourage child to help attach buckles, straps, and shields but always double-check fastenings.
  - Decrease boredom on long trips. Keep soft toys in the car for quiet play, talk to child, and point out objects and teach child about them. Stop periodically. If child wishes to sleep, make certain he or she stays in the restraint.
  - Insist that others who transport children also follow these safety rules.
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\* A free car seat restraint inspection may be obtained from a SafeKids inspector. Check for local inspection SafeKids clinics or access website for