



## SECURING OUR MOST PRECIOUS CARGO

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 2 to 14, due in large part to the non-use or improper use of child safety seats and seat belts. To make it easier to install child safety seats, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) created the LATCH system, which stands for Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren, which has been required in almost all cars and on child safety seats since September 1, 2002.

LATCH generally consists of lower attachments on child safety seats and a set of tether anchors in the vehicle to hold the child safety seat in place. When using the lower anchors of the LATCH system, you do not use vehicle seat belts.

Working with parents and our partners, NHTSA's goal is to ensure that every child is properly secured and safe – every trip, every time.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF INSTALLING CHILD PASSENGER SEATS CORRECTLY

Did you know that 3 out of 4 car seats are not used correctly? Every year, thousands of young children are killed or injured in crashes, mainly because children in child safety seats are not properly secured, or even worse, not restrained at all. In too many instances, parents are confused about how to correctly install their child's seat, don't know that every seat doesn't fit in every car, or they don't realize that their vehicle is equipped with the LATCH system. LATCH makes it easier to get the child seat in right – the first time and every time.

### QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE LATCH SYSTEM AND INSTALLATION

-  LATCH-equipped vehicles have lower anchors in the right and left rear seat positions. If the center seat doesn't have lower anchors, you can install your child safety seat securely using a seat belt.
-  If your vehicle isn't LATCH-equipped, use the seat belt to install the child safety seat and, if available, a top tether.
-  LATCH is not required for booster seats, car beds or vests.
-  For correct installation and use of ALL child safety seats, ALWAYS follow your vehicle owner's manual and child safety seat manufacturer's instructions.
-  Remember, children of all ages are safest when properly restrained in the back seat.



### 4 EASY STEPS TO PROTECT AMERICA'S CHILDREN



**REAR-FACING SEATS** in the back seat from birth to at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.



**FORWARD-FACING TODDLER SEATS** in the back seat from age 1 and 20 pounds to about age 4 and 40 pounds.



**BOOSTER SEATS** in the back seat from about age 4 to at least age 8, unless 4'9" tall.



**SAFETY BELTS** at age 8 and older or taller than 4'9". All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat.