

## centred on child safety

**SAFETY CENTRAL** is a small, non-profit organisation, with the aim of keeping your children safe. Their purpose-built website covers many aspects of child safety and includes cot safety, car seat safety, and safety and well-being within the home.

Safety central has recently added sections alongside 'Safety at Home' for strollers and toys. New product reviews are added every month so products are up-to-date, and the reviews will help assist you in buying the most suitable products for your child.

Their main focus is on child restraint safety because there is so much information on how you 'should' use your child's car seat. Their aim is to provide you with up-to-date, accurate information on what seat to buy, based on your family's needs.

It is estimated that only one in every five child restraints are used

correctly, a figure that needs to be improved. Car seats are vital for the safety of young children, so it is important that they are used correctly.

Installing car seats can be difficult for some people; other times people take short cuts. Short cuts include not installing tether bolts to fit the tether strap to, and having infants face forward before 12 months of age.

It is recommended infants stay rear-facing until they are approximately 12kgs or 12 months old. Many people presume this is because of neck development, but this is not correct. The reason why rear facing is recommended is because of the development of the neck and spine.

When you are in an accident and your child is rear facing, the child slides in the seat in a swing-like motion. The head and neck are gently cradled in the sides of the seat. If the seat is forward facing,



the child's entire body becomes involved in the forward motion with head, neck, arms and legs thrown outwards, and the central body pushed into the harness – with obviously worse results.

The effect of the accident is greater where the car seat is not tethered to the vehicle. Tether straps reduce the movement of

the car seat during an accident and also prevent the seat from tipping over in any direction.

It is important to place the seat in the right direction for your child's weight and use the tether strap if one is fitted to your child's seat.

Where in doubt, give safety central a shout – [www.safetycentral.co.nz](http://www.safetycentral.co.nz).

# Safety Central

Where Safety Matters

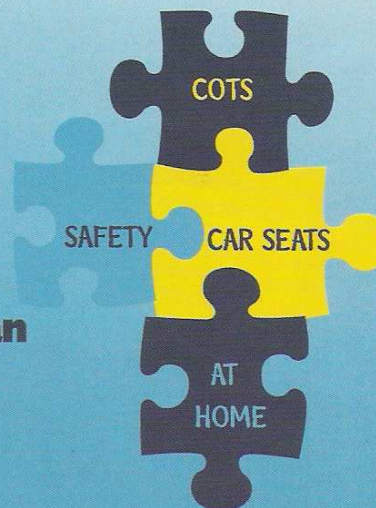
\* Safety Central contains information on cot safety, car seat safety as well as safety and well-being in the home

\* Run by a Safe2Go Technician

\* Our child restraint section is a registered charitable entity

\* We run car seat checking clinics at local child care centres or we can come to you\*

[safe@safetycentral.co.nz](mailto:safe@safetycentral.co.nz)



WWW.SAFETYCENTRAL.CO.NZ

\*Auckland Region only. Conditions apply. CONTACT US FOR DETAILS.