

# Tethers for Tots

Only 1 out of 3 Indiana drivers knows what a top tether is.

Do You?



A tether is a strap that is attached to the top of your car seat. It has a hook on one end of the strap. By connecting it to a tether anchor in your vehicle, you can better protect your forward-facing child.

Tether Strap



Tether Anchor



A top tether works by keeping your child's car seat back so his or her head won't move as far forward in a crash. This can reduce the risk of head and neck injuries.

This photo shows a crash test of a car seat with a top tether and one without. In the seat without a top tether, the crash test dummy's head moved forward six more inches.

Turn  
over for  
more information



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For more information call 1-800-KID-N-CAR.

[www.preventinjury.org](http://www.preventinjury.org)

## Steps to Protect:



**1.** Make sure the vehicle seat in front of your child's car seat is in an upright position.



**2.** Install your car seat tightly with either a seat belt ...

**3.** ... or install it with the lower anchors of LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children).



**4.** Connect the top tether hook to the tether anchor.



**5.** Pull the tether strap tight.



**6.** Test the car seat by pulling at the seat belt path; it should not move more than an inch side to side or front to back.



**7.** Make sure the child's harness is so snug that your fingers roll off of it when pinched.

## More Important Information about Top Tethers

- All forward-facing car seats have top tether straps. Very few rear-facing car seats can use tethers.
- Vehicles manufactured after September 2000 have top tether anchors in 3 seating locations. If you have an older vehicle, check with your vehicle manufacturer about having tether anchors installed.
- Check your vehicle owner's manual to learn where to find the top tether anchors in your car. Some tether locations are marked with a symbol like this:
- Check your car seat's instruction manual to learn how to properly secure your top tether strap.
- Tethers and lower anchors can only be used until a child reaches a certain weight. Check your vehicle owner's manual and car seat instructions for weight limits when using tethers and/or lower anchors. If you can't find the information, assume a 40 pound limit.