NTSB SAFETY ALERT

National Transportation Safety Board

★ Child Passenger Safety on Aircraft ★

Parents urged to use child restraint systems when traveling with children

The problem

- Unlike when they are riding in a car, children under age 2 on an airplane are permitted to be held in an adult's lap and are not required to be in an appropriately secured child restraint in their own seat.
- However, adults may not be able to maintain a secure hold on a lap-held child during turbulence and survivable accidents. Preventable deaths and injuries have occurred in children under age 2 who were unrestrained.
- The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) official guidance emphasizes that the safest place for young children in turbulence or an emergency is in an approved child restraint system or device, *not* on an adult's lap.
- The NTSB has investigated aircraft accidents involving unrestrained children and has issued safety recommendations since 1979 asking the FAA to require that children under age 2 be in an appropriately secured child restraint in their own seat.

What can *you* do to make traveling in an aircraft safer for your child?

- Purchase a ticket for all children younger than 2 years and restrain them in a child restraint system certified for use on aircraft.
- Ensure that infants and small children are restrained in a child restraint appropriate to their size.
- Ensure that all children are properly restrained during takeoff, landing, and turbulent conditions or when the seat belt sign is illuminated.

Need more information?

- A brief description of this issue and the NTSB's first recommendation to require child restraint systems on aircraft:
  http://www.ntsb.gov/safety/safety-recs/recletters/A90_78_79.pdf

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
  - o AAP Policy on Restraint Use on Aircraft:
    http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/108/5/1218

- FAA
  - o Child safety on airplanes: www.faa.gov/passengers/fly_children/crs/
  - o Childproof your flight: www.faa.gov/passengers/media/childsafety.pdf