

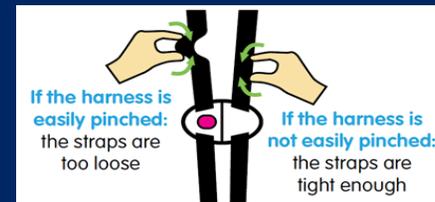
Winter Car Seat Harnessing Tips

Four Steps to Correctly Place a Child in a Car Seat

1. Place the child all the way back in a car seat. The child's back and bottom should be in contact with the back and bottom of the car seat.
2. Place the harness straps in the correct harness slots for the child.
 - ♦ Rear-Facing: The harness is placed AT or BELOW the child's shoulders.
 - ♦ Forward-Facing: The harness is placed AT or ABOVE the child's shoulders.
3. Tighten the harness straps snugly.
 - ♦ "A snug strap should NOT allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an unnatural position."
4. Place the harness retainer clip at armpit level.

How Tight Should the Harness Be?

- ♦ Pinch the harness webbing vertically at the shoulder with the thumb and forefinger.
- ♦ Your fingers should slide off easily and you should not be able to pinch any webbing between them.
- ♦ The harness should lie flat, and fit snugly (not uncomfortable) at the child's shoulders and hips.



A Child's Coat May Be Too Big to Wear in a Car Seat

Determine if a child's coat is too bulky and not safe to use in a car seat.

1. Put the coat on the child. Place the child in the car seat and secure with a snug harness.
 - ♦ A snug harness does not allow the webbing to be folded between your thumb and forefinger when pinched at the shoulder.
2. Without loosening the harness, unbuckle the harness and remove the child from the car seat.
3. Remove the coat and secure the child back in the car seat. Buckle the harness straps, but do not tighten the harness. The harness tightness remains adjusted to the same tightness as when the child was wearing the coat.
4. Pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger. The coat is too bulky if the webbing can be folded between your thumb and forefinger.

Car Seat Tips for Infants in Cold Weather

- ♦ Dress the infant as if they were going to be indoors. A thin sweater or jacket can be worn by the child.
- ♦ Store the car seat carrier in the house when not in use.
- ♦ Warm the vehicle, when possible, before taking the infant outside.
- ♦ Secure the child in the carrier of the rear-facing only car seat making sure the harness straps are snug. Position the harness retainer clip at armpit level.
- ♦ Place a blanket over the harnessed infant in the car seat and then carry to the vehicle.
- ♦ Use only car seat manufacturer approved covers / fitted blankets designed to provide warmth. Approved covers have been tested with the car seat and will not compromise the child's safety.
- ♦ Remove covers / blanket, if needed, during travel. Replace the blanket for warmth when the child is taken out of the vehicle.



Car Seat Tips for Toddlers and Preschoolers in Cold Weather

- ♦ Dress the child in the coat and hat necessary for walking to the vehicle.
- ♦ Remove the coat in the car and secure the child in the car seat. Buckle and tighten the harness to fit snugly on the child.
- ♦ Turn the coat around and put it on backward. Slip the child's arms through the sleeves. The back of the coat will cover the child to keep them warm during travel.
- ♦ Purchase winter coats that provide warmth without bulk and allows the car seat harness to fit the child correctly.